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BOROUGH OF OLDBURY

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REPORT



on the

Health of Oldbury

For the Year 1957

The Midland Printing Company, Limited, Simpson Street,
Oldbury

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
and
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
For the Year 1957.

Medical Officer of Health:
HENRY TABBUSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:
WILLIAM J. MASON, M.A.P.H.I.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL.

The Midland Printing Company, Limited, Simpson Street,
Oldbury

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, 31st DECEMBER, 1957.

ALDERMAN S. T. MELSOM, O.B.E., J.P., C.A., *Chairman.*

ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., C.C., *Vice-Chairman.*

ALDERMAN J. W. HOLLAND.

ALDERMAN G. W. ROSE, J.P.

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„ MRS. M. E.	„ F.W. THOMPSON,
GARRATT, J.P.	J.P.

OLDBURY AREA HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE, 31st DECEMBER, 1957.

County Council Representatives:

MR. R. R. ADAM, C.A.

MR. J. W. BRIGHT, J.P., C.A.

MRS. E. M. GOODE, C.C.

MAJOR M. F. S. JEWELL, C.B.E., D.L., J.P., C.A.

MR. H. PARKES, J.P., C.A.

MR. S. T. MELSOM, O.B.E., J.P., C.A., *Chairman.*

Oldbury Borough Council Representatives:

ALDERMAN J. W. HOLLAND.

ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., C.C., *Vice-Chairman.*

ALDERMAN G. W. ROSE, J.P.

COUNCILLOR A. GUNN, C.C.

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COUNCILLOR W. HAYES, C.C.

Co-opted Members:

COUNCILLOR MRS. R. STARKIE (representing the
Oldbury Committee for Education).

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Medical Officer of Health:

HENRY TABBUSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

D. M. BLOMFIELD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer:

Divisional Dental Officer:

JAMES RODGERS, D.F.M., L.D.S., R.F.P.S.

ALMA M. FACER, L.D.S. (Part-time).

Ophthalmic Specialist (Part-time):

GUY F. G. SIGGINS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

WILLIAM J. MASON, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.i.)

Deputy Chief—F. W. KEENE, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.k.)

Additional—F. J. ANDREWS, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.)

E. N. JAMES, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.)

C. C. WILKES, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. (a.b.)

Senior Health Visitor—School Nurse:

Miss M. R. CLARKE (c.d.e)

Health Visitor—School Nurses:

Miss H. STANSFIELD (c.d.e.). Mrs. M. BARRASS (c.d.e.)

„ B. M. LAMB (c.d.e.) (Resigned 31.8.57)

„ E. M. L. FREESTONE Miss M. LEE (c.d.e.)
(c.d.e.) (Resigned 25.4.57) (Commenced 1.7.57)

Tuberculosis Visitor:

Miss L. L. PRESCOTT (e)

Senior Midwife/District Nurse:

Miss E. F. E. MONK (c.d.e.j.)

Municipal Midwives:

NURSE M. M. BISHOP, (d.e.) NURSE K. STENNETT (d.e.f.)
,, B. EWINGS (d.e.) ,, A. M. WILLIAMS (d.)
,, H. GALLAGHER (d.e.)

District Nurses:

MRS. S. J. GALLAGHER (e.) MRS. L. I. BAKER (g.)
,, E. L. YARRANTON (g.) MISS M. BASTERFIELD (g.)
M. A. GREEN (e.j.) J. GILLARD (e.j.)
(Resigned 26.8.57)

Day Nursery:

Matron: MRS. C. E. M. DAWSON (d.e.)
MISS V. CADDICK.
MISS P. MURRAY.

Clerical Staff:

Health:

Chief Clerk—S. ASTLEY
Senior Clerk—T. K. BOSTON
MISS D. M. PLEAVIN
,, P. ROBERTS
,, S. PARTINGTON
,, E. YORK
,, I. THOMAS

Sanitary:

Chief Clerk—
F. W. HACKETT
MISS M. CALLCOTT
J. JEAVONS
A. G. SABIN
R. A. MADDOCKS

NOTES.

- (a) Holds the Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
- (b) Holds the Meat and Foods Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (c) Holds the Health Visitors' Certificate approved by the Ministry of Health.
- (d) Holds the Midwives' Certificate granted by the Central Midwives Board.
- (e) State Registered Nurse.
- (f) Holds the Midwives Teachers' Diploma.
- (g) State Enrolled Assistant Nurse.
- (h) Diploma of the Institute of Public Cleansing.
- (i) Honours Certificate of the Institute of Hygiene
- (j) Queen's Institute of District Nursing.
- (k) Holds the Smoke Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute.

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

For the Year 1957.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the
Borough of Oldbury.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health of the Borough for the year 1957.

Vital Statistics.

Although both the Birth Rate and the Death Rate show little change from previous years, there are some significant changes in the causes of death. The most important is an increase from 18 to 27 in the total of deaths from cancer of the lung — the highest rate ever recorded in Oldbury and an increase of 50 per cent. in one year. The general trend is for a continuing increase in the death rate from this cause. Now that evidence has shown beyond reasonable doubt a close relationship between cigarette smoking and the incidence of cancer of the lung every member of the public, young and old alike, should be made aware of the risks they are taking in persisting with this habit. A cigarette smoker is not only endangering his own life; by his example he encourages others to risk theirs. Those who are concerned with the education of adolescents, be they parents, teachers, doctors or clergymen have a special responsibility in this respect. To them I would say "It is never too late to stop." A lead from them would soon be followed by the rest of the community. To the adolescents the message should be "Be Smart—don't start."

Infant Mortality.

The exceptionally low rate of 18.67 achieved in 1956 was not maintained. There were 19 infant deaths during the year giving a rate of 24.35 per 1,000 live births. This figure shows little difference from the average rate for all towns in England and Wales, i.e. 23.5, and calls for no comment beyond reiterating what has

been stated in previous reports, that our efforts in further reducing infant mortality must now be concentrated on the ante-natal and perinatal periods. Success will only be achieved by a closer co-ordination of the maternity services offered and further research into the causes of prematurity and congenital abnormalities.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Tuberculosis.

Once again it is pleasing to record a reduction in the number of notified cases of tuberculosis. Although by no means defeated, tuberculosis is certainly a disease in retreat and all our efforts of prevention and treatment must be intensified if we are to succeed in conquering it. In addition to the essential and predominant part played by the Chest Clinic, the regular visits of the mobile Mass Miniature Radiography Unit have been of considerable assistance in the detection of new cases. Extracts from the report of the Medical Director are included on a later page but I would like to endorse Dr. Bardsley's hope that General Practitioners will make greater use of the Unit. Unfortunately, the exceptionally low number of 3 deaths in 1956 was not maintained; 7 people died from Tuberculosis during the year.

Influenza.

Of the 9 deaths which occurred from this disease during the year, the majority were connected with the epidemic wave of Asian Influenza which reached Oldbury in September. Although many more children than adults were affected it was only among the older members of the community that it had any serious ill-effects, being especially dangerous to those already suffering from some respiratory or cardiac disease.

Poliomyelitis.

14 cases were notified during the year of which 10 were non-paralytic and 4 had slight paralysis. In no case was there any severe residual disability. The occurrence of a number of related cases led to the closure of the Infants Department of Rounds Green School a fortnight before the commencement of the Summer holiday. Owing to delays in the production of vaccine very few children had been vaccinated against Polio at the close of the year.

Measles.

There were 897 cases notified during the year reflecting the usual pattern of epidemics in alternate years. Fortunately, the complications which can arise from this disease are now controllable with modern drugs.

There were 33 cases of Scarlet Fever and 120 cases of Whooping Cough. No case of Diphtheria was notified and there were no deaths from any of these diseases.

Clinics.

The Infant Welfare Clinics held at Warley, Langley and Oldbury continued to be well attended. With the development of new housing estates and consequent movement of populations it will become necessary to provide additional clinics. Sites have been provisionally reserved in the Central, Brandhall and Whiteheath areas for this purpose, and further progress will depend on the County Health Committee and the Ministry of Health.

Fewer expectant mothers attended the Clinics for ante-natal care. If one could be sure that all those who did not attend were obtaining adequate care elsewhere there would be no cause for concern but there is evidence that in some cases ante-natal care is not sought or is insufficient. Schemes for co-operation between family doctors, hospitals and local authorities have not proved successful in this respect. Whoever actually carries out the examinations, the responsibility for ensuring that every expectant mother receives the necessary ante-natal supervision should be placed on a single authority.

Housing.

In my report last year I stated that if there were to be any diminution in the rate of house building and if it were intended to carry out the entire slum clearance programme as planned, serious consideration would have to be given to the proportion of the total houses erected to be allocated for the re-housing of people displaced by these procedures.

During the year 301 houses were completed by the local authority but at the end of the year there remained only 50 houses under construction. Of the total of 358 lettings during the year only 128 were allocated to slum clearance. During the same period 183 applicants were re-housed on date order. As a result of this distribution the end of the year was reached with the unsatisfactory position that there remained 67 houses in confirmed clearance areas and 27 houses in respect of which demolition orders had been made with only 50 houses under construction to meet these requirements. As a consequence housing inspections with a view to representation under the Housing Acts were discontinued.

The position of tenants of property subject to Clearance or Demolition orders is worse than that of tenants of unfit houses for which no action has yet been taken, since it becomes difficult to require landlords to carry out repairs on property which has already been condemned. If possible enough houses should be built each year to meet the needs of both the general waiting list and slum clearance but there are many factors which influence the rate of house building, not all of which are predictable. Where the number of houses completed falls short of these requirements a decision will have to be made by the Council as to which of these two categories needs to be rehoused more urgently. So far as the health of the community is concerned, there can be no doubt that the removal of families from houses which are unfit for human habita-

tation must necessarily be more urgent than the rehousing of sub-tenants living in Council houses with modern amenities. Where there exist special problems such as overcrowding or ill-health, these should be dealt with on their merits. The future progress of slum clearance will depend on this decision.

Atmospheric Pollution.

As reported by the Chief Public Health Inspector many improvements have been effected. It is regrettable that despite repeated promises the nuisance from phosphorus fumes in the Langley area has not yet been abated. It is also disappointing that no decision has yet been reached with regard to Smoke Control Areas.

Industrial Health.

In Oldbury, as in other parts of the country, the larger industrial firms provide a comprehensive medical service, but there remain many people employed in small factories, shops and offices who do not enjoy the advantages of such a service. Adequate supervision of the health of workers in relation to their environment could make a major contribution to the health of the community.

Mortuary Premises.

Although the existing premises are unsuitable the Health Committee authorised the purchase of refrigerating equipment which will render conditions more tolerable and is capable of being transported to new accommodation when this becomes available. The improvement will be appreciated by those whose duties take them into these premises.

I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the help and understanding I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee. My thanks are also due to members of the staff of the Health Department, medical, nursing and clerical, for their loyal co-operation and to my colleagues in other Departments who have been helpful at all times.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY TABBUSH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
Greenwood Avenue,
Langley, Oldbury.
September, 1958.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Name	Situation	Sessions	Accommodation
Oldbury I.W.	Wesley Street, Oldbury	Monday, 2 p.m.	Consulting, Infant Weighing and Wait- ing Rooms
Langley I.W.	" The Hollies," Langley	Wednesday and Friday, 2 p.m.	do.
Warley I.W.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Tuesday and Thursday, 2 p.m.	do.
Oldbury A.N.	Wesley Street, Oldbury	Alternate Fridays, 2 p.m.	Consulting and Wait- ing Rooms
Langley A.N.	" The Hollies," Langley	Alternate Thurs., 2 p.m.	do.
Warley A.N.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Alternate Wed., 2 p.m.	do.
School Clinic	Tabernacle Clinic, Oldbury	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	Consulting, Treatment and Waiting Rooms
School Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	do.
School Clinic	" The Hollies," Langley	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	do.
Dental Clinic, S.M.S.	Tabernacle Clinic, Oldbury	Monday, 9—4-30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9—12 noon.	do.
Dental Clinic, S.M.S.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Daily, 9—5 p.m.	do.
M. & C.W.	do.	Monday, 6-30 p.m.	do.
Scabies Clinic	Cleansing Station, Brookfields Rd., Langley	By appointment	Treatment and Wait- ing Rooms
Ophthalmic Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Friday, 10 a.m. Alternate Wed. 1-30 p.m.	Consulting, Treatment and Waiting Rooms
Sunray Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Wednesday, 10 a.m.	Treatment and Wait- ing Rooms
Sunray Clinic	" The Hollies," Langley	Tuesday, 2 p.m.	do.
Sunray Clinic	Tabernacle Clinic,	Monday, 10 a.m.	do.
Chest Clinic	Greenwood Av. Langley	Monday, 11 a.m.—12 noon and 2—4 p.m. Friday, 11—12 noon	do.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	3,304
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate Mid-1957)	54,770
Population (Census 1951)	53,887
Number of inhabited houses at 31.12.57	16,245
Rateable Value (1st April, 1957)	£570,356
Sum represented by a penny rate	£2,324
General Rate—1956—57	15s. 6d.
Unemployment—31st December, 1957:—	
Wholly unemployed—	
Men and boys	101
Women and Girls	52
Temporary stoppage—	
Men and Boys	4
Women and Girls	Nil

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

			M.	F.	Total
Live Births	{ Legitimate	... ..	387	365	752
	{ Illegitimate	... ..	14	14	28
Totals		... ..	401	379	780

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the population 14.24

Area Comparability-Factor

(Births) 0.96 Standardised Birth-rate... 13.67

Stillbirths 23 Rate per 1,000 total births 28.64

Deaths 492 Death-rate (Crude) ... 8.98

Area Comparability-Factor Standardised Death-rate 12.75

(Deaths) 1.42

			Rate per 1000 Births
Number of women dying in, or in consequence			(Live and Still)
of, childbirth was 1	... ..	... ..	1.24

Death-rates of Infants under one year:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	... ..	(19)	24.35
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live			
births	... ..	(19)	25.26
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live			
births	... ..	(—)	00.00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... ..		92
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (all ages)	... ..		7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	... ..		Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..		Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	... ..		Nil

3.—BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.

				Live Births	Death Rate
England and Wales	...	...	...	16.1	11.5
160 Great Towns	...	...	...	16.1	11.5
160 Smaller Towns, population 25,000 to 50,000 (1951 Census)	...	...	...	16.0	11.4
London	...	...	...	16.2	11.4
OLDBURY	...	...	...	13.67	12.75

POPULATION.

The Registrar General estimates that 54,770 persons were resident in the Oldbury area at Midsummer, 1957. The "natural increase of population," that is excess of births over deaths, during the year was 288.

DEATHS.

In 1957, 262 deaths were registered in the Oldbury area. 11 of these deaths were persons not normally resident in the district, and 241 Oldbury residents died outside the district. The aggregate number of deaths for the year was 492, representing a crude death rate of 8.98 per thousand of the estimated population and a standardised death rate of 12.75 per thousand of the population. The corresponding figures for 1956 were 484 total deaths, a crude death rate of 8.82, and a standardised death rate of 12.53.

Of the 492 deaths, 19 were of infants under one year of age, representing an infantile mortality rate of 24.35 per thousand live births. In 1956 there were 15 deaths under one year of age and an infantile mortality rate of 18.67 per thousand live births.

The most frequent causes of deaths, the number of deaths so registered, and the corresponding death rates per thousand of the population were:—

Heart Disease	143	deaths equivalent to a death rate of 2.610
Cancer	92	" " " " 1.679
Vascular Lesions	56	" " " " 1.022
Bronchitis	38	" " " " 0.693
Pneumonia	18	" " " " 0.328
Tuberculosis (all forms)	7	" " " " 0.127

Heart Disease occupies first place as primary cause of death.

HEART DISEASE.

Of the 143 deaths recorded as due to heart disease, 106 relate to persons over the age of 65 and only 8 were in respect of persons under 45 years of age.

CANCER.

For the purposes of comparison the following table gives a summary of the deaths from Cancer, and the age distribution of those deaths during the past fifteen years.

Year	ESTIMATED POPULATION	NUMBER OF DEATHS			Rate per 1000 Pop.	AGE DISTRIBUTION				
		Males	Fe- males	Total		0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-45 Years	45-65 Years	65 years & over
1943	50,100	48	32	80	1.59	..	..	10	25	45
1944	50,220	32	33	65	1.29	1	1	7	23	33
1945	50,040	42	27	69	1.37	..	..	6	29	33
1946	51,890	47	38	85	1.63	..	1	2	32	50
1947	52,510	62	40	102	1.94	..	..	10	34	58
1948	53,350	42	41	83	1.55	..	..	11	36	36
1949	53,380	45	48	93	1.74	..	..	5	43	45
1950	53,820	49	36	85	1.57	1	..	7	33	45
1951	53,740	39	36	75	1.39	1	..	5	36	33
1952	53,790	46	36	82	1.52	1	1	5	33	42
1953	53,820	36	29	65	1.20	..	..	6	29	30
1954	54,030	53	37	90	1.66	..	1	8	32	49
1955	54,550	41	47	88	1.61	1	1	12	32	42
1956	54,840	54	43	97	1.76	..	..	8	48	41
1957	54,770	51	41	92	1.67	..	..	12	41	39

An analysis of the deaths from malignant disease shows that the site of the cancer causing death was as follows:—

Site	Male			Female		
	No.	Age Range	Average Age	No.	Age Range	Average Age
1. Intestinal Tract:						
a. Buccal Cavity	—	—	—	1	72	72
b. Oesophagus ...	1	69	69	—	—	—
c. Stomach ...	7	39-79	63	7	39-77	57
d. Colon ...	1	76	76	6	43-86	67
e. Rectum ...	6	48-80	62	2	54-57	55
2. Female Generative Organs:						
a. Uterus ...	—	—	—	3	66-73	69
b. Vulva ...	—	—	—	1	78	78
c. Ovary ...	—	—	—	1	55	55

	Site	No.	Male		No.	Female	
			Age Range	Average Age		Age Range	Average Age
3. Respiratory Tract:							
a. Lung	... 11	44-74	61	2	62-96	79	
b. Bronchus	... 13	39-78	56	1	62	62	
4. Urinary Tract:							
a. Bladder	... 1	79	79	—	—	—	
b. Prostate	... 2	65-71	68	—	—	—	
5. Brain	... 1	44	44	—	—	—	
6. Spine	... —	—	—	1	56	56	
7. Glands:							
a. Gall Bladder...	1	60	60	1	86	86	
b. Liver	... —	—	—	2	60-77	68	
c. Pancreas	... 1	67	67	—	—	—	
d. Breast	... —	—	—	9	37-90	58	
8. Skin	... —	—	—	1	83	83	
9. Miscellaneous	... 6	26-63	48	3	36-71	55	
Totals	... 51	26-80	60	41	36-96	66	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

Tables IVa and IVb summarising the work of Immunisation will be found at the end of the Report.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

33 cases were notified compared with 18 in 1956. The disease in the main was mild in character and of relatively little significance. Only complicated cases are admitted to Hospital, Nil in 1957, compared with 1 in 1956.

Pneumonia.

44 cases notified, and 18 deaths reported during the year.

Influenza.

Nine deaths in 1957 compared with 4 in 1956.

Erysipelas.

Four cases were notified during the year as compared with 5 during 1956.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

There were 897 cases of Measles and 120 cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year. No deaths were attributable to these diseases.

Whooping Cough Immunisation at 31st December, 1957.

Year of Birth	Year of Immunisation										Totals
	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	
1957	84										84
1956	304	64									368
1955	36	284	33								353
1954	13	23	199	29							264
1953	13	6	19	120	1						159
1952	18	8	10	17	62	5					120
1951	10	22	8	1	5	38					84
1950	4	3	18	4		4	19				52
1949		2	4	4		1	4	11	4		30
1948			1	3	2			1	40	2	49
1947	2	4	1	1	2	2			8	21	41
1946		1	4	2		1	1		4	1	14
1945			1	1		1	1		3		7
1944		1							1		2
1943			1						2	1	4
Totals	484	418	299	182	72	52	25	12	62	25	1631

Meningococcal Infection.

One case was notified and there was one death.

Tuberculosis.

The following tables have been supplied by the Chest Physician, Dr. R. B. Mayfield, who comments:—

"As will be seen from the first of the following Tables, the number of new cases seen at the Chest Clinic is slightly higher than in 1956, despite the fact that notifications of tuberculosis have fallen to a new low record. As tuberculosis diminishes, the investigation and treatment of other chest diseases plays a larger part, but the control of tuberculosis must always be the chief function of a Clinic of this type.

"The sustained fall in notifications in the past two years is an encouraging feature and there can be no reasonable doubt that this indicates a real fall in the incidence of the disease, since case-finding is probably more efficient now than it has ever been.

"The number of contacts examined per notified case shows a slight increase again. Though only one of the 133 examined in 1957 showed evidence of active tuberculosis, the percentage discovered in the past five years was 3.2, and there is no doubt of the value of this method of case-finding. In addition, contacts who have not yet been infected are offered B.C.G. Of 83 who had tuberculin tests in 1957, 62 were negative and 45 of these were inoculated. Tuberculin testing is now being offered up to the age of 40 years, though it is difficult to secure the attendance at the the Clinic for this purpose of working men.

"X-ray facilities remain as described in last year's report."

OLDBURY CHEST CLINIC.

New Cases examined in 1957.

Source ..	Tuberculous				Non-tuberculous and Observation cases				Totals			
	M	F	C	Total	M	F	C	Total	M	F	C	Total
General Practitioner	5	—	1	6	113	63	35	211	118	63	36	217
Mass Radiography	6	4	—	10	28	4	—	32	34	8	—	42
Contacts ..	—	—	1	1	29	43	60	132	29	43	61	133
Other ..	7	3	1	11	10	5	40	55	17	8	41	66
Totals ..	18	7	3	28	180	115	135	430	198	122	138	458

Contacts examined in 5 years, 1952 to 1957.

Year	Men	Women	Children	Totals	Cases Notified T.B.	Contacts per Notifi- cations	Contacts found to be Tuberculous
1952	36	51	67	154	66	2.33	3 (1.94%)
1953	20	44	50	114	63	1.81	2 (1.75%)
1954	25	42	91	158	65	2.43	5 (3.16%)
1955	22	34	81	137	55	2.49	6 (4.37%)
1956	32	46	69	147	46	3.2	7 (4.76%)
Totals	135	217	358	710	295	2.4	23 (3.23%)
Average	27	43	72	142	59	2.4	4.6 (3.2%)
1957	29	43	61	133	40	3.3	1 (0.75%)

Movements of Patients in and out of Oldbury.

Year	Transfers in	Transfers out
1953	8	16
1954	19	13
1955	20	16
1956	16	30
1957	9	64
Total 5 years	72	139

Mass Miniature Radiography.

Extracts from the report of Dr. G. P. Bardsley, Medical Director, Birmingham Mobile Unit 'A.'

"General Practitioner Referral Sessions continued to be operated at Langley on a fortnightly basis, where a commencement was made during the previous year. The use made of the Unit for this purpose by the Practitioners in the area continued to be satisfactory, though one would have hoped that they might have made more use of it than they did."

LANGLEY G.P. SESSIONS

Number examined	...	...	...	1,691...
Tuberculous lesions:				
Healed	...	...	...	13
Suspected not confirmed	...	...	...	1
Occasional Supervision	...	...	...	1
Close Clinic Supervision	...	...	...	2
Requiring immediate Treatment	...	...	...	10
				} 7.0 per 1,000
Non-Tuberculous abnormality:				
Referred to Clinic or Hospital	...	...	...	36
Others	...	...	...	69

The table below shows the number of notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the years 1945 to 1957.

Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis—New Cases

Year	Total	SEX		0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-35 Years	35-45 Years	45-55 Years	55 Years & over
1945	50	Male	32	1	6	11	7	5	2
		Female	18	2	7	5	3	1	..
1946	81	Male	54	2	19	13	5	10	5
		Female	27	4	11	6	3	2	1
1947	55	Male	32	5	7	3	9	3	5
		Female	23	4	10	2	5	..	2
1948	59	Male	35	4	15	4	6	2	4
		Female	24	6	7	3	3	2	3
1949	65	Male	44	6	7	5	8	7	11
		Female	21	1	6	6	7	1	..
1950	56	Male	38	1	9	11	6	7	4
		Female	18	4	4	6	4	..	..
1951	70	Male	44	5	8	10	3	12	6
		Female	26	6	11	2	2	2	3
1952	54	Male	28	3	3	5	6	9	2
		Female	26	2	6	6	6	3	3
1953	56	Male	30	4	3	5	4	11	3
		Female	26	4	11	4	6	1	..
1954	61	Male	37	3	12	9	4	3	6
		Female	24	4	12	6	..	2	..
1955	50	Male	31	3	4	6	5	3	10
		Female	19	5	6	6	..	..	2
1956	38	Male	22	1	5	6	6	2	2
		Female	16	3	5	2	4	1	1
1957	35	Male	23	3	6	3	2	2	7
		Female	12	2	6	4	..	..	..

Five cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (2 males and 3 females) were notified in 1957.

Cases on the register at the end of the year were as follows:—

	Male	Female
Pulmonary	(287) 270	(209) 194
Non-Pulmonary ...	(38) 29	(23) 14

Figures for 1956 in brackets.

The following table shows the sex and age groups in which the 7 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis occurred during 1957. For comparison the table includes the corresponding figures since 1940.

Year	Total	Death Rate	SEX	0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-35 Years	35-45 Years	45-55 Years	55 years & over
1940	39	·77	Male 27 Female 12	.. ..	4 6	8 1	5 3	5 1	6 ..
1941	30	·59	Male 17 Female 13	.. 2	.. 4	6 2	1 3	3 ..	7 2
1942	34	·67	Male 22 Female 12	.. ..	5 6	3 1	4 5	7 ..	3 ..
1943	42	·83	Male 25 Female 17	.. 2	3 7	7 4	6 2	7 1	2 1
1944	26	·52	Male 13 Female 13	.. 1	1 3	4 1	1 4	3 1	4 3
1945	26	·52	Male 16 Female 10	.. ..	.. 3	4 3	2 2	3 2	7 ..
1946	38	·73	Male 23 Female 15	1 2	2 2	7 5	4 1	2 2	7 3
1947	27	·51	Male 20 Female 7	.. ..	4 1	4 3	5 3	2 ..	5 ..
1948	15	·28	Male 8 Female 7	.. ..	3 2	.. 2	1 3	4..	....
1949	28	·52	Male 16 Female 12	1 ..	2 5	1 1	6 2	3 1	3 3
1950	13	·24	Male 8 Female 5	1 ..	.. ..	.. 3	2 1	1 1	4 ..
1951	15	·27	Male 12 Female 3	.. ..	.. ..	3 2	.. ..	3 ..	6 1
1952	13	·24	Male 8 Female 5	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	3 2	2 ..	2 3
1953	11	·20	Male 6 Female 5	.. ..	.. 2	2 ..	.. 1	2 1	2 1
1954	12	·22	Male 10 Female 2	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	1 2	.. ..	8 ..
1955	6	·11	Male 5 Female 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	2 1	2 ..
1956	3	·05	Male 3 Female —	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	1 ..	.. ..	1 ..
1957	7	·12	Male 7 Female —	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	4 ..	3 ..

			AGE DISTRIBUTION (YEARS)											WARD DISTRIBUTION								
			TOTALS	Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 plus	Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall	
RESPIRATORY	MALE	No. on Register at 1-1-57 ...	287	—	7	17	11	30	33	62	61	46	12	8	34	36	44	25	48	56	44	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	23				3	5	1	3	2	2	4	3	2	2	3	1	6	6	3
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
			Restored to Register...	2								1	1								2	
			Inward Transfers ...	2							2					1					1	
		Deletions	Died ...	9							1	2	2	1	3	2	2	1	2	1		1
	Recovered ...		8				1	1	1	2	2	1			2	1			1	3	1	
	Diagnosis not confirmed ...		2				1				1						1			1		
	Outward Transfers ...		26			1	1	5	2	8	5	3		1	1	3	6	2	6	6	2	
	No. on Register at 31-12-57 ...		269	—	7	16	11	29	31	56	54	43	15	7	32	32	39	22	46	55	43	
	FEMALE	No. on Register at 1-1-57 ...	209	—	15	13	13	27	44	49	32	11	4	1	29	22	38	18	31	41	30	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	12		2			2	4	4						1	4	1	1	3	2
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
			Restored to Register...	2						1	1								1		1	
Inward Transfers ...			7						2	3	1	1			1		2		1	2	1	
Deletions		Died ...	3						1			2			1		2					
	Recovered ...	9			4	1		1	1	1	1			1		4			2	2		
	Diagnosis not confirmed ...	1					1										1					
	Outward Transfers ...	22			1		4	7	6	3	1			3	1	6	2	1	6	3		
No. on Register at 31 ⁷ / ₈ -12-57 ...		195	—	17	8	12	24	42	50	29	8	4	1	25	22	32	17	32	39	28		
NON RESPIRATORY	MALE	No. on Register at 1-1-57 ...	38	—	8	8	2	3	7	4	4	—	1	1	3	—	8	6	11	5	5	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	2							1		1			1						1
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
			Restored to Register...	—																		
			Inward Transfers ...	—																		
		Deletions	Died ...	3		1				1					1					1		2
	Recovered ...		—																			
	Diagnosis not confirmed ...		1			1											1					
	Outward Transfers ...		7		1	3		1	1	1					1		2	1		1	2	
	No. on Register at 31-12-57 ...		29	—	6	4	2	2	5	4	4	1	1	—	3	—	5	5	10	4	2	
	FEMALE	No. on Register at 1-1-57 ...	23	—	5	1	1	—	5	5	2	3	1	—	2	2	4	—	6	5	4	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	3		2		1											1		1	1
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
			Restored to Register...	—																		
Inward Transfers ...			—																			
Deletions		Died ...	—																			
	Recovered ...	3																2		1		
	Diagnosis not confirmed ...	—									2	1										
	Outward Transfers ...	9		3	1	1		1	2	1					1	2		2	2	2		
No. on Register at 31-12-57 ...		14	—	4	—	1	—	4	3	1	1	—	—	2	1	2	1	2	4	2		

AGE DISTRIBUTION—All ages are those obtaining at date of Primary Notification
DEATHS—All the deaths removed from Register have not actually occurred during 1957

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 50.

On one occasion the Council had to bear the cost of burial during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948, and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

It was not necessary during the year to resort to Section 47 in order to remove, to suitable premises, a person in need of care and attention.

Mortuary.

During the year 30 bodies were removed to the Mortuary and in 27 instances post-mortems were conducted.

Medical Examinations.

The staff of the department carried out 68 medical examinations for superannuation and employment purposes.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.**Housing.**

Increased housing accommodation is still an urgent necessity in the Borough. Re-housing of tuberculous cases continues to merit top priority, but families living in overcrowded or insanitary accommodation are also given due consideration.

The Housing Manager informs me that he received 436 new applications during the year, divisible into the following groups:—

311	with no children.
74	with 1 child.
34	with 2 children.
8	with 3 children.
2	with 4 children.
4	with 5 children.
2	with 8 children.
1	with 10 children.

Total applications on Housing Register at 31.12.57:—

Sub-Tenants	...	...	...	2,587
Tenants	...	...	...	912

The Borough Surveyor has supplied the following figures:—

Number of houses completed by the Corporation	...	301
Number of houses completed by private contractors	...	91
Number of houses completed by Smethwick Corporation	...	78
Number of Municipal houses and flats in course of erection at 31.12.57	...	50
Number of permanent dwellings erected since 8.5.1945	...	2,247

Water Supply.

68 houses in the area are supplied with water from the mains to standpipes or taps in yards serving two or more houses. The approximate population so served is 229. The remaining houses and population in the area receive water from mains direct to individual houses.

Specimen results of analysis by the County Analyst are as follows:—

				Zone 1.	Zone 2.	Zone 3.
Physical Characters	...	...	...	Colourless	Colourless	Colourless
Odour	...	...	...	None	None	None
Appearance	...	...	...	Clear	Clear	Clear
pH.	...	...	...	7.6	7.0	7.5

Chemical Examination.

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100°C.)	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Solids in solution (Dried at 180°C.)	...	...	...	340	250	400
Solids in solution. After ignition	...	...	...	255	215	285
Chlorine present as chloride	...	...	...	41	40	30
Hardness—non-carbonate	...	...	...	80	65	105
Hardness—carbonate	...	...	...	110	70	135
Hardness, total	...	...	...	190	135	240
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.01	0.02	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.07	0.01	0.10
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	3.7	6.6	7.2
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C. (N/80 Permanganate)	...	...	...	1.05	0.25	1.05
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected	None detected	None detected
Total Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	0.02	0.01	0.01
Fluorine	...	...	...	—	—	—

Note.—To convert the above parts per million to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.07.

Bacteriological Examination.

Probable number of coliform bacilli:—

In two days at 37°C.	...	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.
Fæcal Coli Type	...	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.

SERVICES ADMINISTERED ON BEHALF OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Chief Statistics, 1957.

Registrar General's figures.

Total number of live births during the year 780

Total number of stillbirths during the year 23

Live birth-rate 14.24 per thousand population. (Standardised birth-rate 13.67).

Stillbirth rate 28.64 per thousand live and stillbirths.

Illegitimate live births represent 3.58 per cent. of the total live births in the area.

Infant mortality: 19 children died under the age of one year. This represents an Infant Mortality rate of 24.35 per thousand live births.

Neonatal mortality rate: 16.66. Perinatal mortality rate: 43.58.

Births.

The total of 780 live births is divisible into 401 boys and 379 girls, giving a standardised live birth-rate of 13.67 per thousand estimated population.

Of the 780 live births, 28 were illegitimate (14 boys and 14 girls). One illegitimate stillbirth was notified.

Stillbirths.

There were 23 stillbirths registered during 1957 giving a still-birth-rate of 28.64 per thousand live and stillbirths, or 0.37 stillbirths per thousand of the population, as compared with 1956, when the number of stillbirths was 18; the stillbirth rate 21.92 per thousand live and stillbirths, or 0.32 stillbirths per thousand population.

Premature Births.
 Notification of birth cards provide information about babies weighing 5½-lbs. or less at birth.

WEIGHT AT BIRTH	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS												PREMATURE STILL-BIRTHS		
	Born in Hospital			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home & transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day		
	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days
(A) 3 lb. 4 oz. or less . . .	7	1	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
(B) Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz. . .	10	—	9	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
(C) Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz. . .	8	—	8	5	—	5	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
(D) Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz. . .	20	—	20	10	—	10	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	3
TOTALS ..	45	1	41	15	—	15	4	1	3	3	—	3	—	—	11

Infantile Mortality.

There were 19 deaths of infants under one year of age and 13 of these deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life. This is equivalent to an Infant Mortality rate of 24.35 per thousand live births.

The corresponding figures for the previous fourteen years are:

1943	...	45	..	or 41.02	..	..
1944	...	40	..	or 37.18	..	..
1945	...	34	..	or 33.59	..	..
1946	...	36	..	or 35.89	..	..
1947	...	38	..	or 36.22	..	..
1948	...	38	..	or 41.34	..	..
1949	...	30	..	or 34.12	..	..
1950	...	25	..	or 30.30	..	..
1951	...	19	..	or 24.51	..	..
1952	...	18	..	or 24.09	..	..
1953	...	25	..	or 31.05	..	..
1954	...	22	..	or 29.53	..	..
1955	...	16	..	or 21.88	..	..
1956	...	15	..	or 18.67	..	..

An analysis of the causes of death of infants will be found in the following table:—

Infant Mortality during the Year 1957
Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death	Days						Total under 1 week	Weeks 2-3	Total under 4 weeks	Months						Total under 1 Year
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6				1-2	2-3	4-5	7-8	8-9	11-12	
Gastro-enteritis							—		—					1	1	2
Atelectasis ..	2	1		1			4		4							4
Prematurity ..	2	2					4		4	1						5
Congenital Heart ..					1		1		1				1			2
Cerebral Haem.	1						1		1							2
Haemolytic dis. of newborn ..			1				1		1							1
Asphyxia ..							—		—		1					1
Mul. Cong. malformations						1	1	1	2			1				3
Totals ..	5	3	1	1	1	1	12	1	13	1	1	1	1	1	1	19

Perinatal Mortality Rate.

The following table gives the Oldbury and the England and Wales Rates for the past ten years.

Year	Stillbirth Rate (Per 1,000 Total Births)		Neonatal Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Live Births)		Perinatal Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Total Births)	
	Oldbury	England and Wales	Oldbury	England and Wales	Oldbury	England and Wales
1957	28.64	22.5	16.66	16.5	43.58	36.2
1956	21.92	22.9	13.69	16.8	34.10	36.8
1955	22.72	23.2	16.41	17.3	36.09	37.6
1954	15.85	23.5	24.16	17.7	35.66	38.1
1953	27.77	22.5	16.14	17.7	39.85	37.0
1952	19.68	22.7	14.72	18.3	27.55	37.5
1951	17.74	23.0	16.77	18.8	32.95	38.1
1950	20.19	22.7	24.24	18.5	42.75	37.7
1949	18.97	22.7	21.61	19.3	33.48	38.0
1948	13.94	23.2	22.85	19.7	32.18	38.5

Illegitimate Live Births.

The Illegitimate Live Birth Rate shows a increase on the figure for the previous year.

Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 Population	% of Total Live Births
1957	28	.51	3.58
1956	16	.29	1.99
1955	23	.42	3.14
1954	25	.46	3.35
1953	32	.59	3.97
1952	27	.50	3.61
1951	28	.52	3.54
1950	38	.70	4.51
1949	44	.824	5.26
1948	30	.562	3.26
1947	36	.685	3.43
1946	53	1.023	5.14
1945	54	1.079	5.21
1944	28	.557	2.52
1943	31	.618	2.73
1942	23	.469	2.24
1941	18	.364	2.08
1940	13	.266	1.37

Maternal Mortality.

There was one death during 1957.

Midwives Act, 1936.

An indication of the work undertaken by the Domiciliary Midwives during the year can be obtained from the following table:—

YEAR	CONFINEMENTS					Hospital Discharges before 14th day		Domiciliary cases wholly Breast Fed at 14th day	NATAL VISITS	
	DOCTOR BOOKED				Total					
	No		Yes							
	Present at Delivery		Present at Delivery							
	Yes	No	Yes	No		Cases	Visits		Ante	Post
1953	—	41	42	242	325	254	687	214	2328	22
1954	—	17	40	218	275	338	926	218	2124	26
1955	—	16	21	261	298	314	989	218	1482	2
1956	—	7	20	259	286	459	1313	212	1622	—
1957	1	6	20	249	273	552	1625	207	1990	—

Gas and Air Analgesia.

This service was made available to all expectant mothers from May, 1948. Out of 273 domiciliary cases, 213, or 77.6 per cent. availed themselves of the opportunity during the year, as compared with 71.6 per cent. in 1956.

Notifications Received from Midwives.

The following notifications were received from midwives practising in the Borough:—

Sending for medical aid	...	...	116
Artificial feeding	...	...	44
Liability to be a source of infection	...	...	3
Death of mother and/or child	...	...	—
Laying out of dead	...	...	—

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Five cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified to the Department.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were 4 cases during the year.

MEDICAL AID.

Medical aid was summoned by Midwives on 116 occasions up to the end of the year and a summary of the requests received is set out on the next page. In 115 instances a Medical Practitioner had arranged to provide the patient with maternity medical services under the National Health Service.

Mother—

Ruptured perineum	...	...	...	39
Inflammation of breast	...	...	...	4
Rise of temperature	...	...	...	7
Toxæmia	...	...	...	2
Premature labour	...	...	...	6
Episiotomy	...	...	...	6
Delayed labour	...	...	...	9
Post-partum hæmorrhage	...	...	...	3
Ante-partum hæmorrhage	...	...	...	2
Raised blood pressure	...	...	...	2
Cracked nipples	...	...	...	1
Fœtal distress	...	...	...	1
Obstetric shock	...	...	...	1
Oedema and headache	...	...	...	1
Pain and tenderness	...	...	...	1
Obstructed shoulders	...	...	...	1
Miscarriage	...	...	...	1
Threatened miscarriage	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	3
Total				91

Child—

Burns	...	...	...	1
Premature infant	...	...	...	1
Discharging eye	...	...	...	14
Skin infection	...	...	...	4
Cyanosis	...	...	...	4
Other causes	...	...	...	1
Total				25

Institutional Accommodation for Maternity Cases.

The total number of births notified as having occurred in Hospitals, etc., outside the Borough was 543.

	Living.	Stillborn.
Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich	317	13
Birmingham Maternity Hospital	17	2
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Selly Oak	18	—
Birmingham General Hospital	2	—
St. Chad's Hospital	125	4
Sorrento Hospital	1	1
Marston Green Hospital	1	—
Wordsley Hospital	3	—
Netherwood Hospital, Solihull	1	—
Dudley Road Hospital	8	2
Selly Oak Hospital	1	—
Mary Stevens' Maternity Home	8	—
Lordswood Maternity Home	2	—
Poplars Maternity Home	15	—
Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home	1	1
Other private addresses	1	—
Totals	521	22

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The attendances at the respective clinics were as follows:—

	OLDBURY		LANGLEY		WARLEY		TOTALS	
	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957
Number of Sessions	25	25	26	26	25	25	76	76
New Ante-Natal Cases	49	30	77	44	58	28	184	102
Total attendances	196	146	406	238	228	149	830	533
Average per Session	7.8	5.8	15.6	9.1	9.1	5.9	10.9	7.0
Blood Test only ..	20	32	53	61	45	58	118	151
Hospital booking only	89	97	123	125	57	53	269	275

The number of 102 new cases is 12.7 per cent. of the total registered births for the district.

Routine blood samples for the investigation of the Rhesus Factor, Wasserman Reaction and Hæmoglobin estimation are now taken at the Ante-Natal Clinics, and the results so far obtained undoubtedly justify the continuance of this procedure. This service is available to the patients of General Practitioners on request.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

The three clinics at Langley, Oldbury and Warley continued to serve the Borough throughout the year. Two sessions per week were held at Langley and Warley, and one session per week at Oldbury.

575 babies under the age of 1 year attended the Clinics for the first time. This represented 73.7 per cent. of the registered live births. 42 children between 1 and 2 years and 48 children between the age of 2 and 5 years attended the Clinics for the first time during the year.

The following table gives particulars of attendances at the three Infant Welfare Clinics.

	OLDBURY		LANGLEY		WARLEY		TOTALS	
	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957
New Cases:—								
0-1 years	108	126	259	231	229	218	596	575
1-2 years	1	3	4	16	7	23	12	42
2-5 years	5	6	13	7	29	35	47	48
Total ..	114	135	276	254	265	276	655	665
Seen by Doctor:—								
0-1 years	411	384	940	819	719	826	2,070	2,029
1-2 years	50	49	100	93	108	111	258	253
2-5 years	49	32	64	76	97	78	210	186
Total ..	510	465	1,104	988	924	1,015	2,538	2,468
Attendances:—								
0-1 years	2,064	1,742	4,091	4,028	3,612	3,657	9,767	9,427
1-2 years	374	585	1,095	1,069	975	925	2,444	2,579
2-5 years	343	302	913	817	1,298	1,190	2,554	2,309
Total ..	2,781	2,629	6,099	5,914	5,885	5,772	14,765	14,315
Number of Sessions ..	49	49	103	102	100	100	252	251
Average Attendance ..	56	53	59	59	58	57	58	57
Children attending in 1957 (1956)								
Who were born in:—1957 (1956) ..	(113)	121	(228)	196	(202)	199	(543)	516
Who were born in:—1956 (1955) ..	(91)	100	(190)	220	(170)	186	(451)	506
Who were born in:—1955-52 (1954-51) ..	(81)	90	(192)	221	(231)	239	(504)	550
Total Children attending in 1957 (1956) ..	(285)	311	(610)	637	(603)	624	(1,498)	1,572

Post-Natal Clinics.

Attendances are, on the whole, disappointing, but this is now largely due to the obligation of Doctors under the National Health Service Act, 1946, to carry out routine post-natal examinations on their Maternity cases.

Work of the Health Visitors.

During the year 12,734 visits were made to homes in the district and 676 sessions were taken up by attendance at Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Centres.

The work undertaken by the Health Visitors can be summarised as follows:—

	First visits	Total visits
Expectant Mothers	180	184
Children under 1 year of age ...	748	3,409
Children age 1 and under 2 years ...	—	2,154
Children age 2 and under 5 years ...	—	4,860
Other cases	—	568
Ineffective visits	—	1,559
	Total	12,734
No. of children under 5 years visited during 1957		3,853
No. of families or households visited during 1957		3,317

Voluntary Committees.

A Voluntary Committee operates at each Infant Welfare Clinic and they render valuable social and clerical service to the community. Their efforts in maintaining the happy relationship at our clinics and successfully arranging social functions in the form of outings, sales of work and competitions are very much appreciated.

Sale of Dried Milk and Other Foods.

During the year dried milk and other foods to the value of £1,802 17s. 5d. were sold at the Welfare Clinics.

Distribution of Welfare Foods.

The distribution of welfare foods formerly undertaken by the Ministry of Food continued during the year from the Infant Wel-

fare Clinics and also from the Central Depot established at the Offices, Greenwood Avenue, Langley, Oldbury.

During the year the following items were distributed:—

National Dried Milk—Full Cream	...	10,148	tins
Half Cream	...	215	tins
Cod Liver Oil	...	3,726	bottles
Vitamin A and D Tablets	...	1,776	packets
Orange Juice	...	26,578	bottles

Medical Inspection of Pre-School Children between 3 and 5 years of age.

The following is a summary of the findings of medical inspections during 1957:—

Physical condition—Satisfactory	...	382	(98.4%)
Unsatisfactory	..	6	(1.6%)
Total	...	388	

Defects found and referred for treatment:—

Skin	...	2	Lung Defect	...	5
Eye Defects	...	9	Developmental	...	1
Ear Defect	...	1	Orthopædic	...	1
Nose and Throat	...	8	Nervous System	...	2
Defective Speech	...	1	Psychological	...	1
Lymphatic Glands	...	—	Abdomen	...	—
Heart and Circulation	...	—	Other Defects	...	—

Ophthalmic Treatment.

Those children attending the Welfare Clinics noted to be suffering from defective vision or other eye conditions are sent to Mr. Guy F. G. Siggins, the Ophthalmic Specialist at the School Clinic.

During 1957, 21 new cases attended and the following conditions were found to have been present:—

Strabismus	...	16
Blepharitis	...	1
Conjunctivitis	...	1
Epiphora	...	2
No defects found	...	3

Dental Treatment—

Pre-School Children and Expectant and Nursing Mothers.

The dental treatment of the priority classes was carried out as in previous years. The pre-school child was usually brought to the Clinic with toothache and 95 general anæsthetics were administered and 204 extractions were carried out for the relief of pain.

Many mothers now realise the value of their children's milk teeth but there are others unaware of the importance of diet and hygiene whose children suffer as a consequence. The mother is the key figure in the preservation of children's first teeth. The Dental Surgeon is of secondary importance. Every opportunity is used to impress the young mother with the significance of her own part in the maintenance of her child's dental health.

The evening sessions for expectant and nursing mothers have been fully booked since their commencement some years ago. This year there have been more teeth conserved and less extracted. This is a healthy sign. Apart from making the mothers dentally fit they are helped at a most receptive phase to look after their babies' teeth.

			Expectant and Nursing Mothers	Children under five years
New Patients: Examined	...	...	63	112
	Requiring treatment	...	63	106
Patients Treated: First visits	...	...	57	99
	Subsequent visits	...	271	10
Made dentally fit	...	...	48	86
Scale and gum treatment	...	...	41	—
Fillings	...	...	152	18
Silver nitrate treatment	...	...	—	1
Crowns or inlays	...	...	—	—
Extractions	...	...	233	204
General anæsthetics	...	...	8	95
Dentures provided: Full	...	...	27	—
	Partial	...	20	—
Radiographs	...	...	13	—

Family Planning.

The Oldbury and District Family Planning Association continued their sessions at the Warley Clinic, Bleakhouse Road, Warley, each Wednesday from 6-30—7-30 p.m. There were 746 attendances at 48 sessions.

145 new patients attended during the year, the source of reference is set out in the following table:—

Source			
Health Visitors and Midwives	...	...	13
Local Doctors	...	...	46
Other Patients already attending	...	...	49
Newspaper advertisements read by	...	...	21
Transferred from other clinics	...	...	9
F.P.A.	...	...	3
Referred by Hospitals	...	...	1
Probation Officer	...	...	1
Social Worker	...	...	2

MOAT ROAD DAY NURSERY.

The Day Nursery fills a very real need in the Borough. The majority of children in attendance are admitted on social grounds and ordinarily would be deprived of normal home life.

The following table shows the attendance during 1957.

	Number of Attendances		Average Attendances	
	Weekday		Weekday	
	Under 2 years	Over 2 years	Under 2 years	Over 2 years
January	16	294	0.69	12.78
February	36	294	1.80	14.70
March	62	313	2.95	14.90
April	44	220	2.58	12.94
May	92	352	4.00	15.30
June	50	321	2.77	17.78
July.. ..	45	355	2.25	17.75
August	20	267	1.33	17.80
September	22	271	1.05	12.90
October	25	354	1.08	15.39
November	41	353	1.95	16.81
December	32	255	1.88	15.00
Totals	485	3649	2.03	15.26

Home Nursing.

At the end of the year the equivalent whole-time nursing staff was 6½. The following table summarises the work carried out during the year:—

	<i>Cases Attended</i>	<i>Visits Paid</i>
MEDICAL	552	20,462
SURGICAL	92	4,066
INFECTIOUS DISEASE	6	15
TUBERCULOSIS	7	236
MATERNAL COMPLICATIONS ..	9	85
OTHER CASES	—	—
TOTAL	666	24,864
AGE OF PATIENT AT FIRST VISIT = OVER 65	240	17,394
UNDER 5	22	98
PATIENTS WHO HAD MORE THAN 24 VISITS IN YEAR	176	20,983

Home Helps.

This service is organised by the local branch of the Women's Voluntary Service and during the year domestic help was provided in 12 maternity cases, 90 chronic sick cases and 36 domestic cases. There were 27 part-time and 2 whole-time Home Helps employed at the end of the year.

Vaccination.

The following table gives details of the number of primary vaccinations carried out during the past nine years:—

Year	Under 1 year	AGE 1-4 years	GROUP 5-14 years	15 years & over	Clinic	General Practitioner	Total
1949	118	75	8	7	20	188	208
1950	191	15	5	13	42	182	224
1951	245	26	4	8	127	156	283
1952	219	11	4	8	121	121	242
1953	245	16	14	9	138	146	284
1954	239	12	7	9	115	152	267
1955	217	17	10	6	126	124	250
1956	208	13	1	6	107	121	228
1957	289	25	15	13	128	214	342

Immunisation.

In all 749 children were immunised in 1957, 652 under 5 years of age and 97 between 5 and 15 years of age and in addition 1,298 reinforcing injections were given, mainly to children aged 5 and 9 years.

Details of the state of Immunisation at the 31st December, 1957, are shown in Tables IVa and IVb.

Borough Ambulance Service.

During the year 8,671 ordinary cases, 487 accident cases, 8,315 children to the occupational centre, and 339 maternity cases were transported. The total mileage covered was 59,813.

The vehicles include 1 Austin "Welfarer" Ambulance, 1 Austin "Sheerline," 1 Austin Sitting Case Ambulance, 1 Morris Ambulance (27 h.p.) and 1 Morris (16 h.p.) Ambulance.

The accident cases can be divided into:—

235	Road Accidents
113	Works „
113	Home „
26	School „

Personnel at the Ambulance Station are on duty from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on call on rota from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. The number of cases transported between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. throughout the year was 16,923 and 889 between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.

TABLE I.—*Corrected Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) during 1957.*

Notifiable Disease	Cases Notified in Whole District												Total Cases Notified in each Ward									
	At Ages—Years												Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall	Total	Total cases re- moved to Hospital	
	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65										65 and upwards
Ac. Encephalitis: Infective ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	33	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough ..	12	9	2	3	5	16	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	26	1	120	2	2	2	
Measles ..	27	81	11	108	140	425	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	90	293	66	897	2	2	2	
Pneumonia ..	3	3	104	1	1	3	2	2	—	5	5	13	6	3	3	16	2	9	44	6	6	
Dysentery ..	2	—	—	1	—	4	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	1	1	11	3	—	2	
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	4	—	—	—	
Ophth. Neon. ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	4	4	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	5	1	—	1	
Paratyphoid ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	2	1	—	1	4	1	1	
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Poliomyelitis: Non-Paralytic ..	—	2	—	—	1	4	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	10	4	5	2	
TOTALS ..	48	95	118	133	166	505	22	10	2	8	6	19	6	107	124	354	82	200	109	162	1138	21

TABLE II. CAUSES OF DEATH. 1957

Cause of Death	Detailed List No.—	All ages			AGE GROUPS															WARDS						
		TOTAL	M	F	0—4 months	4—12 months	1—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—25 years	25—35 years	35—45 years	45—55 years	55—65 years	65—75 years	75—85 years	85 and over	Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	001—008	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	1	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	1	...
2. „ other	010—019	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Syphilitic disease	020—029	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
4. Diphtheria	055	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping cough	056	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Meningococcal infections	057	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
7. Acute poliomyelitis	080	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Measles	085	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases ..	Rest of 001—138	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	151	14	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	4	...	5	...	2	2	2	1	1	2	4
11. „ „ lung, bronchus	162, 163	27	24	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	12	6	1	1	2	2	4	1	6	8	4
12. „ „ breast	170	9	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	3	2	1	2	2	1	1	...	2
13. „ „ uterus	171—174	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	Rest of 140-203, 205	39	20	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	2	13	9	7	2	5	4	10	4	4	4	8
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	204	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
16. Diabetes	260	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	330—334	56	22	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	5	17	25	4	6	5	10	3	10	9	13
18. Coronary disease, angina	420	55	32	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	16	22	13	...	7	3	13	4	10	13	5
19. Hypertension with heart disease	440—443	21	9	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	6	12	...	3	4	3	2	5	1	3
20. Other heart disease	Rest of 410—443	67	26	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	4	3	17	24	12	9	8	12	5	9	9	15
21. „ circulatory disease	444—468	12	11	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	4	3	...	2	...	3	1	3	2	1
22. Influenza	480—483	9	4	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	2	2	...	2	2	1	1	1	...	2
23. Pneumonia	490—493	18	11	7	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	1	4	7	1	2	5	4	3	2	...	2
24. Bronchitis	500—502	38	28	10	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	13	12	8	2	6	5	4	2	6	6	9
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	470—475, 510—527	10	3	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	2	3	...	...	1	2	4	2	1	...
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	540—541	8	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	2	...	2	...	3	1	1	...	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	543, 571, 572, 764	2	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	590—594	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	610	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	1	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	640—689	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
31. Congenital malformations	750—759	7	4	3	4	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	1	...	...	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	Rest of 001—795	40	17	23	10	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	2	2	10	8	4	7	3	6	5	6	5	8
33. Motor vehicle accidents	E810—835	3	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
34. All other accidents	E800—802, E840—963	18	9	9	1	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	5	3	3	1	3	6	1	1	2	4
35. Suicide	E963, 970—979	10	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	2	2	1	...	1	...	3	...	3	2	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	E964, 965, 980—999	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ..		492	267	225	15	4	3	—	5	1	3	11	25	43	86	133	130	33	63	52	101	47	73	67	89	

TABLE IVa. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION at 31st DECEMBER, 1957

Year of Birth	Estimated Population at Mid 1957	Immunised at 31/12/57			% Immunised During								Total Immunised During		Immunity Index 100×9/1
		No.	%		1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Last 5 years	1952 or earlier				
Column No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11				
1957	775	87	11.22	—	—	—	—	11.20	87	—	11.22				
1956	777	413	53.15	—	—	—	9.65	43.50	413	—	61.75				
1955	737	439	59.56	—	—	7.19	45.59	6.78	439	—					
1954	717	445	62.06	—	6.00	47.00	6.97	2.09	445	—					
1953	776	560	72.16	6.70	53.48	7.86	1.93	2.19	560	—	73.17				
1952-403	9,155	8,806	96.18	13.39	15.58	14.70	14.81	14.69	6,699	2,107					
Totals	12,937	10,750	83.09	9.88	14.56	13.89	14.16	14.31	8,643	2,107	66.80				

TABLE IVb—DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION at 31st December, 1957

COLUMN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
YEAR OF BIRTH	YEAR OF IMMUNISATION (PRIMARY OR BOOST)															Total Immu- nised at age in Col. 17	Age at Date of Immu- nation (Years)
	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943		
1957	87 281	75 225	53 223	43 269	52 105	18 99	17 67	4 50	16 92	12 39	7 18	2 15	1 9	3 18	3	1,903	0-1
1956	57 42	111 42	114 42	146 12	39 12	38 2	58 27	24 11	30 15	55 11	59 12	96 29	96 41	109		1,330	1-2
1955	8 10	8 9	19 7	14 6	10 8	7 3	8 1	3 1	4 8	6 4	11 5	6 9	23			198	2-3
1954	5 8	6 6	8 3	4 12	4 29	5 7	3 3	— 8	2 13	1 4	3 10	13				157	3-4
1953	9 149	11 170	8 118	19 68	23 95	3 12	4 13	1 5	7 13	5 10	14					757	4-5
1952	339 85	276 89	358 132	374 103	101 62	42 83	36 43	14 60	24 95	47						2,363	5-6
1951	17 11	24 9	14 13	11 9	39 9	25 12	46 5	13 14	32							303	6-7
1950	6 3	6 5	3 6	1 9	6 8	5 3	11 8	4								84	7-8
1949	5 15	8 24	11 24	8 14	11 15	4 1	2									142	8-9
1948	429 259	433 251	388 216	396 229	439 192	17										3,259	9-10
1947	12 4	3 10	8 8	10 10	19											84	10-11
1946	5 6	10 8	8 12	117												166	11-12
1945	—	1 1	1													3	12-13
1944	—	1														1	13-14
1943	—															—	14-15
TOTALS	1,852	1,832	1,797	1,884	1,278	386	352	212	351	194	139	170	170	130	3	10,750	
PRIMARY	749	510	723	817	824	717	706	*568	1,021	754	913	779	838	861	1,821	Immunisations in the Borough	
BOOSTER	1,298	1,247	1,225	1,387	1,726	667	555	*403	373	217							

*Immunisation suspended from July to November.



TABLE V.—VITAL STATISTICS SINCE 1891

YEARS	POPULATION (R. G.'s Mid. Year Est.)	RATES PER 1,000 EST. POPULATION						Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)		RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS		
		LIVE BIRTH *		DEATH *		PHTHISIS DEATHS				Maternal Mortal- ity	STILL BIRTH	
		Oldbury	E. & W.	Oldbury	E. & W.	No.	Rate	Oldbury	E. & W.		Old- bury	Old- bury	E. & W.
1891—1895	21,331	40·82	30·5	21·33	18·7	89	·8344	201·8	151			
1896—1900	25,375	37·82	29·3	16·80	17·7	94	·7411	216·5	156			
1901—1905	25,798	36·28	28·2	17·45	16·0	77	·5969	175·0	138			
1906—1910	28,580	35·75	26·3	17·04	14·7	118	·8257	147·1	117			
1911—1915	33,856	30·12	23·6	15·47	14·3	115	·6793	137·6	110			
1916—1920	38,277	23·47	20·1	12·77	14·4	162	·8464	104·1	90			
1921	37,700	26·4	22·4	11·5	12·1	31	·8222	101·0	83	7·04		
2	38,390	24·8	20·6	11·6	12·9	31	·8074	69·0	77	3·15		
3	39,970	23·5	19·7	11·1	11·6	21	·5388	78·0	69	3·27		
4	40,050	21·9	18·8	9·5	12·2	30	·7490	68·0	75	4·56		
5	40,740	22·1	18·3	10·8	12·2	34	·8344	70·0	75	4·43		
6	42,080	20·4	17·8	9·7	11·6	27	·6415	55·8	70	1·16		
7	43,120	19·4	16·7	11·2	12·3	22	·5102	88·4	69	2·38		
8	33,760	21·7	16·7	11·1	11·7	29	·8589	67·8	65	3·64		
9	34,190	21·7	16·3	12·6	13·4	19	·5557	99·7	74	4·04		
1930	35,000	21·5	16·3	10·8	11·4	36	1·0285	43·9	60	7·80		
1	36,370	20·8	15·8	11·1	12·3	21	·5773	68·6	66	3·86		
2	37,660	19·4	15·3	10·1	12·0	21	·5576	91·5	65	7·87		
3	39,560	17·4	14·4	10·5	12·3	23	·5813	89·7	64	2·83		
4	40,720	19·2	14·8	10·4	11·8	29	·7121	64·0	59	2·43		
5	41,900	18·9	14·7	9·7	11·7	31	·7398	65·6	57	2·40		
6	42,990	19·6	14·8	10·28	12·1	35	·8141	55·6	59	0·00		
7	44,450	18·94	14·9	11·09	12·4	25	·5624	65·32	58	2·24		
8	45,450	19·88	15·1	10·42	11·6	30	·6600	56·41	53	3·19		
9	47,000	18·51	15·0	9·96	12·1	28	·5956	64·59	50	3·31		
1940	48,700	18·74	14·6	11·17	14·3	39	·8008	49·34	55	4·20	38·94	36·1
1	49,390	16·94	14·2	9·98	12·9	30	·6074	70·47	59	1·15	33·48	34·4
2	49,530	19·97	15·8	9·63	11·6	34	·6864	46·51	49	2·92	37·00	33·0
3	50,100	21·89	16·5	9·84	12·1	42	·8382	41·02	49	1·84	35·18	30·2
4	50,220	21·42	17·6	8·86	11·6	26	·5176	37·18	46	2·70	29·75	27·7
5	50,040	20·22	16·1	9·03	11·4	26	·5194	33·59	46	1·93	23·16	27·6
6	51,890	19·32	19·1	9·55	11·5	38	·7322	35·89	43	0·00	26·21	27·2
7	52,510	19·97	20·5	9·54	12·0	27	·5141	36·22	41	2·78	26·90	24·1
8	53,350	17·22	17·9	8·90	10·8	15	·2811	41·34	34	2·14	13·94	23·2
9	53,380	16·46	16·7	13·12	11·7	28	·5245	34·12	32	2·23	18·97	22·7
1950	53,820	14·86	15·8	12·65	11·6	13	·2415	30·30	29·8	1·18	20·19	22·7
1951	53,740	13·84	15·5	12·36	12·5	15	·2791	24·51	29·6	1·26	17·74	23·0
2	53,790	13·32	15·3	11·96	11·3	13	·2416	24·09	27·6	0·00	19·68	22·7
3	53,820	14·35	15·5	10·45	11·4	11	·2043	31·05	26·8	1·20	27·77	22·5
4	54,030	13·23	15·2	11·75	11·3	12	·2220	29·53	25·5	1·32	15·85	23·5
5	54,550	12·86	15·0	12·43	11·7	6	·1099	21·88	24·9	1·33	22·72	23·2
6	54,840	14·05	15·7	12·53	11·7	3	·0547	18·67	23·8	0·00	21·92	22·9
7	54,770	13·67	16·1	12·75	11·5	7	·1278	24·35	23·1	1·24	28·64	22·5

* These rates are standardised as follows:—

Live Births from 1950
Deaths from 1949

I

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

and

Cleansing Superintendent

for the

Year Ended 31st December, 1957.

W. J. MASON, M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Oldbury.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my fourth Annual Report of work carried out by the Staff of the Sanitary Department during the year 1957.

Inspections.

The number of inspections and revisits to all classes of premises totalled 7,357 and these visits resulted in the service of 267 notices, details of which are set out below. The figures for inspections, particularly re-inspections or re-visits, again show an increase of 923 on those for the preceding year, despite the large demand made by slum clearance work, and are satisfactory.

Summary of Inspections and Re-visits during 1957.

	Inspec- tions	Re- visits
Atmospheric Pollution (excluding smoke observa- tions)	147	125
Canal Boats	—	3
Certificates of Disrepair	69	28
Cinemas	1	—
Circuses	3	—
Dairies and milkshops	29	15
Depots (maintenance)	11	24
Dirty and/or verminous houses and premises	90	74
Dustbins	1,871	1
Factories	19	2
Food adulteration	6	—
Food and drugs sampling	105	—
Food premises (excluding ice cream)	68	220
Food vehicles	8	1
Foul cellars	26	10
Hairdressers' premises	4	3
Houses-let-in-lodgings	12	3
Housing (including Clearance Areas)	586	1,008
Ice cream premises—manufacture and/or sale	9	91
Infectious diseases prevention (including Food Poisoning)	49	51
Interviews	368	—
Keeping of animals and/or poultry	4	—
Markets	—	5
Meat and other foods inspection	323	6
Miscellaneous	618	58

					Inspection tions	Re- visits
Neglected sites	...	...	...	...	1	—
Noise nuisances	...	...	...	...	4	3
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	9	14
Offices	...	...	...	...	2	2
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	60	52
Pet shops	...	...	...	...	5	—
Rats and mice nuisances (excluding Rodent Operative's visits)	...	...	...	...	82	37
Refuse removal and disposal (including tips)	...	...	...	...	176	22
Salvage	...	...	...	...	67	1
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	—	—
Slaughterhouses (excluding meat inspection)	...	...	...	...	1	1
Smoke control areas—survey	...	...	...	...	39	—
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	49	—
Swimming baths	...	...	...	...	1	—
Tents, vans and sheds (including temporary buildings)	...	...	...	...	9	11
Water closets and drains	...	...	...	...	282	245
Water courses and canals	...	...	...	...	10	4
Water supplies and samples	...	...	...	...	13	1
					<hr/> 5,236	<hr/> 2,121

Summary of Notices served during the year 1957.

				Preliminary	Statutory
Public Health Act, 1936:					
Nuisance properties	...	...	...	121	26
Defective water closets (Section 45)	...	...	...	6	3
Proposed work of maintenance on sewers (Section 24)	...	...	...	—	29
Defective drains (Section 39)	...	...	...	20	4
Smoke nuisances (Sections 101 and 103)	...	...	...	10	—
O.U.D.C. Act, 1929:					
Defective drains	...	...	...	—	8
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...	...	6	2
Factories Act, 1937:					
Inadequate or defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	3	—
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955	...	...	...	29	—
				<hr/> 195	<hr/> 72

Housing.

Figures provided by the Housing Manager showed that at the end of 1957 there were 2,587 sub-tenants on the live register of applications for municipal dwellings, a decrease of only 153 in the corresponding figure for 1956.

The erection by the Council of 302 dwellings in the year was a post-war record and together with 56 re-lettings it will be seen that 358 lettings were effected during the year.

The details of these lettings, as supplied by the Housing Manager, are as follows:—

Date Order applicants	...	...	...	...	183
Special Cases (Housing Department)	...	...	...	...	11
Health Cases (e.g., to abate overcrowding, etc.)	...	...	...	...	34
Cases referred from After-Care Committee	...	...	...	...	2
Slum Clearance	...	...	...	...	128
Total					358

The percentage of lettings allocated to the Health and Sanitary Departments was therefore 46 per cent., an encouraging figure but one which, as will be seen in later comments under another section of this part of the report, was still inadequate.

Repairs to Houses.

The following tables summarise the work carried out to repair defective properties under the Public Health and Oldbury Urban District Council Acts.

Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied.

	By Owner	By Local Authority
After informal action by Local Authority	116	Nil
After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Act, 1936	65	11
(b) Housing Act, 1936	—	—

Summary of defects remedied, improvements effected and nuisances abated under the Housing, Public Health and O.U.D.C. Acts during the year 1957.

Houses cleansed and/or repaired under the Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	182
New windows provided and others repaired	...	...	...	...	44
Staircases repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	6
New floors provided and others repaired	...	...	...	...	16
Firegrates repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	9
New doors provided and others repaired	...	...	...	...	10
New waste pipes provided and others repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Water supply—burst water pipes repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	11
Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	...	...	...	...	285
Inspection chambers repaired or new covers provided	...	...	...	...	1
Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Water closets repaired and/or limewashed	...	...	...	...	11
Water closets provided with new pedestals	...	...	...	...	7
Defective water closet cisterns repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	19
Defective spouting repaired or disconnected or new spouting provided	...	...	...	...	32
Leaky roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	57

Dangerous chimneys rebuilt or repaired	...	...	10
Courts, back-yards or approaches paved or repaired	...	...	5
Wash-houses repaired and/or linewashed	...	...	9
Walls weatherproofed externally	...	...	17
Miscellaneous	...	...	2

Certificates of Disrepair.

The Rent Act, 1957, having come into operation in July, 1957, 68 applications were received between September and December of that year from tenants for Certificates of Disrepair. The table below summarises the position. It is too early to forecast whether the work occasioned by the Act will increase or in fact whether the Act will achieve its object, but at the end of the year, there were no signs of any slackening in the number of applications being made. Certainly there was evidence of more repair work being carried out by local builders at the end of the year to rented property which is indeed very welcome.

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

Number of applications for Certificates	...	...	68
Number of decisions <i>not</i> to issue Certificates	...	...	Nil
Number of decisions to issue Certificates:—			
(a) for all defects specified by applicant	...	...	42
(b) for some defects specified by applicant	...	...	19
Number of applications awaiting decision by Local Authority at end of year	...	...	7
Number of undertakings given by landlords	...	...	18
Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority	...	...	Nil
Number of Certificates issued	...	...	27

Applications for Cancellation of Certificates.

Number of applications by landlords for cancellation of Certificates	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of applications awaiting decision by Local Authority at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Slum Clearance.

Action to implement the Council's slum clearance programme was pursued vigorously during the first part of the year. 142 houses were officially represented for demolition and closing, 7 houses were closed for human habitation, 13 demolished as individual unfit houses and 32 demolished in Clearance Areas. It is regrettable that the work of inspection and representation had of necessity to be brought to a temporary halt towards the end of the year due to a shortage of municipal housing accommodation and the large accumulated total of families awaiting re-housing from slum property already dealt with.

In view of the large number of properties scheduled for action in the Council's 15-year programme, it is vital that a vigorous house building policy is pursued without which satisfactory progress in the programme is impossible. Indeed the provision of re-housing accommodation should be so planned that new houses are available *in advance* of the displacements which from time to time become necessary as required by Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957, difficult though this may sometimes be.

Housing.

Number of individual unfit houses or parts of buildings officially represented as unfit for human habitation (including 11 Council-owned properties)	61
Number of individual unfit houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made (Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 or Sections 16 and 17 Housing Act, 1957)... ..	46
Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made under Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 or Section 17, Housing Act, 1957	6
Number of houses where Closing Orders revoked and Demolition Orders made under Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	2
Number of houses included in Clearance Areas (Section 25, Housing Act, 1936)	81

Houses Demolished.

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during the year	
		Persons	Families
<i>In Clearance Areas.</i>			
Houses unfit for human habitation ...	32	317	94
Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	—	—	—
Houses on land acquired under Section 43, Housing Act, 1957 (or Section 27, Housing Act, 1936) ...	—	—	—
<i>Not in Clearance Areas.</i>			
As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, or Sections 16 and 17, Housing Act, 1957 ...	13	100	34

Unfit Houses Closed.

Under Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 or Sections 16 or 17, Housing Act, 1957	Number		
Parts of buildings closed under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 ...	7	32	7
	1	5	2

Overcrowding.

26 cases of overcrowding (involving the rehousing of 133 persons) were relieved during the year out of a total of 61 cases reported to the Health Committee. These figures are a reduction on those for the previous year but the ratio of the number of cases relieved to those officially reported was higher than for 1956. The reduction was due to the increasing difficulties being experienced in the latter part of the year with new house building.

Improvement Grants.

All applications for improvement grants were dealt with by the Borough Surveyor, the staffing problem in the Department having in no way diminished.

The Borough Surveyor has supplied me with the following information relating to Improvement Grant Work during 1957:—

1. Number of applications received ...	...	...	29
2. Number of applications approved ...	...	...	11
3. Cost of work approved in (2) above ...	...	...	£3,437
4. Total amount approved as grant ...	...	...	£1,228
5. Number of applications rejected ...	...	...	3
6. Applications not proceeded with by applicants ...	...	...	9
7. Number of applications awaiting consideration at end of year ...	...	...	6

Drainage and Conservancy.

The position with regard to the sewerage and drainage of the Borough showed no substantial change from the previous year. Only 18 premises are not connected to a public sewer, all by reason of inaccessibility.

Water Supply.

The supply to the whole of the Borough by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company continued to be entirely satisfactory during the year. 13 samples for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis taken by the Department were satisfactory. Only 68 houses are supplied with water from standpipes or taps in yards serving 2 or more houses.

Canals and Water Courses.

The condition of the canals and water courses in the Borough showed no substantial difference from the previous year and no statutory action was necessary by the Department although it must be said that some branches of the canals have a somewhat derelict and unsatisfactory appearance due to lack of use for navigation.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

(a) The number of licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation Regulations, 1949-54 during the year was as follows:—					
1. Dealers' (Pasteurising plant)	...	...	...	...	1
2. Dealers':—					
(a) Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	21
(b) T.T.	...	...	...	...	7
(c) Sterilised	...	...	...	...	94
3. Supplementary:—					
(a) Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	22
(b) T.T.	...	...	...	...	21
(c) Sterilised	...	...	...	...	22
					188

The total shows an increase of 22 over that for 1956.

(b) Number of registered milk distributors retailing milk in the Borough whose premises are located:—					
1. In the Borough	...	...	...	...	94
2. Outside the Borough	...	...	...	...	22
(c) Number of samples of pasteurised milk taken from the sole pasteurising dairy in the Borough:—					
			Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	
(a) for bacteriological examination	...	...	31	—	
(b) for chemical analysis	...	...	31	—	
Number of samples of designated milk taken which originated outside the district:—					
(a) for bacteriological examination	...	...	31	—	
(b) for chemical analysis	...	...	29	—	
Number of samples of raw milk taken for biological examination					
...	...	...	3	—	
Number of samples of pasteurised dairy cream taken from a dairy in the Borough carrying out own separation:—					
(a) for bacteriological examination	...	...	9	4	
(b) for chemical analysis	...	...	13	—	
Number of samples taken in the Borough of dairy cream separated outside the district:—					
(a) for bacteriological examination	...	...	5	2	
(b) for chemical analysis	...	...	5	—	

The problem of the cleanliness of dairy cream, particularly that separated at small dairies, remained during the year and in the case of the dairy in this district was again due to post-pasteurisation contamination. In one instance it is interesting to recall that premature souring of the cream within an hour of sampling was found subsequently to be due to large numbers of heat-resistant but non-pathogenic *B. Mycoides*, which organism was apparently giving trouble on many farms at that particular time. Inten-

sive educational efforts have unfortunately not solved the problem of clean handling of cream though some improvement was effected and one is left more and more with the conclusion that only the introduction of *legal* bacteriological standards, difficult though it may be, will deal with the problem of separation of small quantities of cream.

Meat and other Foods Inspection.

The number of food animals slaughtered at the sole private slaughterhouse in the district increased substantially during the year but no undue demands were made on the Inspectors and no work outside normal hours was again necessary. The decrease in the incidence of bovine tuberculosis is indeed gratifying and in accordance with the national trend but the incidence of the disease detected in pigs showed a slight increase. The general quality of the meat produced was again of a high standard.

No pigs were killed on unlicensed premises — the first year that this has occurred since the war.

The quantities of other foodstuffs condemned showed little difference from the figures for 1956.

Meat and Other Foods Condemnations for the year 1957.

					Weight	
					T. C.	Q. Lbs. Ozs.
Carcase Meat and Offal (from sole Private Slaughterhouse in district) ...					I 6	2 23 12
Other Foodstuffs:—						
No. of tins, pkts., etc					T. C.	Q. Lbs. Ozs.
759	Fruit and fruit juice	...	...	...	10	0 11 8½
260	Meat and meat paste	...	...	...	7	0 8 6½
16	Tongue ...	...	...	...		1 23 10
32	Ham ...	...	...	...	2	1 26 12
144	Milk and cream	...	...	...	1	0 16 0
180	Vegetables	...	...	...	1	0 26 7½
71	Fish and fish paste	...	...	...		1 0 11
48	Sauces and pickles	...	...	...		1 7 14½
46	Soups and broths	...	...	...		1 9 6
3	Coffee ...	...	...	...		7
12	Jellies ...	...	...	...		2 13
	Sausages	...	...	...		1 2 12
29	Cereals ...	...	...	...		27 9
	Dried fruit	...	...	...		5 8
	Cheese ...	...	...	...	1	2 9 8
	Cake and cake mixture	...	...	...		2 24 0
21	Jams, marmalades, etc.	...	...	...		13 13½
	Carcase meat and offal (other than above)	...	...	...	1	0 1 15
	Bacon	...	...	...		3 9 4
18	Miscellaneous	...	...	...		8 0
Totals					2 15	0 8 1½

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

		Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Totals
Number killed	...	453	11	29	2,047	1,062	—	3,602
Number inspected	...	453	11	29	2,047	1,062	—	3,602
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis								
(1) Whole Carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
(2) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	116	—	—	—	206	150	—	
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticercosis	... 25.66	—	—	—	10.06	14.12	—	
Tuberculosis only								
(1) Whole Carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(2) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	22	—	—	—	—	56	—	
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	... 4.85	—	—	—	—	5.27	—	
Cysticercosis								
(1) Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	... 6	1	—	—	—	—	—	
(2) Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	... 6	1	—	—	—	—	—	
(3) Generalised and totally con- demned	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	

Meat Inspection, 1957.

Reason for Condemnation

(1) Cattle (including Calves)

Disease	Car- cases	Head and Tongue	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Kidneys	Mesenter- ies	Thick Skirts
Tuberculosis	1	4	9	—	2	2	11	—
Abscesses	—	—	3	—	12	—	—	—
Fascioliasis	—	—	2	—	62	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts	—	—	9	—	3	—	—	—
Pneumonia, Congestion and Pleurisy	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Hydronephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercus Bovis	—	3	—	4	—	—	6	—
Pentastomes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telangiectasis	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Pericarditis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tumours	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	1	7	27	5	86	2	17	—

II

(2) Sheep.

Disease	Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Carcases	Spleens	Mesenteries
Pneumonia and Congestion ...	20	—	—	1 (Septic)	—	—
Parasitic Infections ...	78	91	—	—	—	—
Tumours ...	—	—	4	—	—	—
Blood Splashing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Melanosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abscesses ...	1	2	2	—	—	—
Hydatid Cyst ...	2	5	—	—	1	1
Totals	101	98	6	1	1	1

(3) Pigs.

Disease	Heads	Lungs	Livers	Mesenter-ies	Hearts	Kidneys	Feet	Spleens
Tuberculosis ...	54	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia, Congestion and Pleurisy ...	—	107	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hydatid Cyst ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis ...	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	—
Oedema ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pericarditis ...	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—
Parasitic Infection ...	—	—	47	—	—	—	—	—
Hydro-Nephrosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Abscesses ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Arthritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Necrosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	54	109	70	—	20	3	1	2

Disposal of Unsound Meat and Food.

Unsound meat and offals were disposed of, after staining, to a Firm in an adjoining district carrying out dry rendering of animal wastes. All other unsound foodstuffs were disposed of at the Council's refuse tip, Taylor's Lane.

No inspection of large or special consignments of food was necessary during the year.

Food Premises.

The following food businesses were carried on during the year:—

Wholesale Grocers	...	...	...	...	3
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	4
Dairies	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers (including sausage manufacturers)	...	...	...	...	46
Grocers (retail)	...	...	...	...	109
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	36
Catering establishments	...	...	...	...	18
Fish Shops (Fried and Wet)	...	...	...	...	18
Sweets, Confectionery and Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	76

General	...	...	...	...	39
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	109
Food Factories (2 confectionery, 1 vinegar)	...	...	...	...	3
					<hr/> 462 <hr/>

The following food premises were registered by the Council at the end of the year:—

(a) *Under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955:*

Sausage Preparation	...	...	...	...	5
Ice Cream Manufacturing	...	...	...	...	3
Retail Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	98

(b) *Under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954:*

Dairies	1
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(c) *Under Section 69 of Oldbury Corporation Act, 1949:*

Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	5
Butchers	...	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	4

153 inspections (including 107 re-inspections) of registered premises were carried out during the year.

The figure of 432 inspections and re-inspections of food premises was a substantial improvement on the figure for 1956 and was made possible by first, the slackening, and then the temporary halting of work in connection with slum clearance. Very few premises were found to comply entirely with the Food Hygiene Regulations but in the vast majority of cases, the food traders signified their willingness to bring their premises up to the new standards. The Table below indicates work of improvement, etc., carried out to food premises as a result of visits by Inspectors.

Improvements, etc., effected to Food Premises.

Food premises cleansed and/or re-decorated	...	...	...	12
Food premises repaired	...	...	...	4
Additional wash-basins installed	...	...	...	16
New sinks provided	...	...	...	5
Additional hot water supplies provided	...	...	...	16
New dish-washing machines provided	...	...	...	1
Food storage facilities improved	...	...	...	5
Ventilation of premises improved	...	...	...	1
New floor coverings provided	...	...	...	1
Floors repaired or new provided	...	...	...	2
New counters provided	...	...	...	1
Towelling, etc., improved	...	...	...	8
Outside food displays raised	...	...	...	4
Glass screens provided	...	...	...	5
First-aid kits provided	...	...	...	6
Refrigerators provided	...	...	...	7

Notices provided in water closets	...	...	...	15
Water closets cleansed and/or repaired	...	...	...	11
Food premises closed	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	6

Non-compliance with informal notices and requests from members of the Health Committee in an interview with the proprietors of a bakery in the Borough resulted in legal proceedings being taken under the Food Hygiene Regulations and Food Handling Byelaws for contraventions of those Regulations and Byelaws. 10 charges under the Regulations and 2 under the Byelaws were preferred against the firm. All 10 charges under the Regulations were found proved but 2 charges under the Byelaws of failing to protect foodstuffs from contamination by dust from internally-fired ovens and from contamination by insects were dismissed by the Magistrates, despite evidence being given that crickets were audible in the bakehouse on the day of the hearing in Court. Fines of £2 on each of the 10 charges were awarded and several months later the business closed down.

A further small bakery also closed at the end of the year following strong representations by the Health Committee and the Department that the premises were unfit for the preparation of food. In this case the premises were closed voluntarily without resort to legal action.

137 bacteriological swabs were taken of utensils and equipment in catering establishments, of which 24 were unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory swabs were due mainly to the failure of the café proprietors to sterilise their utensils. The majority of small cafés rely on a water heater to provide hot water for washing up and it is apparent that, particularly during peak demands for hot water, the supply above 170°F. is at times inadequate. Other causes of poor bacteriological results were re-contamination of washed utensils on dirty draining boards, etc., and failure to protect sterilised equipment before re-use. Only educational methods will overcome these problems but there is no doubt that standards of washing up generally require radical improvement.

Ice Cream.

Only 2 of the 3 registered manufacturers of ice cream actually manufactured this article during the year, and again relied exclusively on complete cold mixes. 12 samples taken from their premises for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis were satisfactory.

Food and Drugs Sampling.

Only 1 sample of the 178 taken during the year was found to be adulterated. This was a sample of strong solution of iodine which was *above* the strength specified by the British Pharmacopœa. The stock was old and in view of the Borough Analyst's report, admonitory action only was taken.

The number of samples again shows a slight ~~m~~^{de}crease on the figure for the previous year.

**Samples taken for chemical analysis under Food and Drugs
Act, 1955.**

Article sampled	No. of samples	Article sampled	No. of samples
Milk (excluding fresh cream)	62	Hydrogen Peroxide ...	1
Fresh cream	16	Citric acid	1
Ice cream and lollies ...	21	Amm. Tincture of Quin- ine	1
Orange drink	3	Boric acid ointment ...	1
Coffee & chicory essence	1	Strong solution of Iodine	1
Jellies	2	Yeast tablets	1
Honey spread	1	Iron nerve blood tablets	1
Salt	1	Tea	1
Self-raising flour ...	1	Processed peas	1
Lard	3	Fish paste	1
Tinned crab	1	Pepper	1
Malt vinegar	1	Tinned meat	1
Non-brewed condiment	1	Horse radish	1
Glycerine	1	Gravy browning	1
Eucalyptus oil	1	Curry powder	2
Sodium bicarbonate ...	1	Tinned sardines	1
Tartaric acid	1	Colouring	1
Camphorated oil	1	Boracic crystals	1
Phenacetin tablets ...	1	Mixed herbs	1
Beef sausage	1	White embrocation ...	1
Pork sausage	2	Parsley & thyme stuffing	1
Cake mixture	1	Dried sage	1
Angelica	1	Welsh rarebit	1
Cake decorations	1	Sauce	1
Sugar confectionery ...	9	Common cold tablets ...	1
Chewing gum	2	Codeine tablets	1
Soft drink tablets	1	Vitamin capsules	1
Soft drink	1	Crystallised ginger ...	1
Chicken paste	1	Whisky	1
Flavouring	1	Rum	1
Miscellaneous	2		
Gin	1		
Teething powders	1		
Puddings	2		
		Total	178

Foreign Bodies in Food.

5 cases of foreign bodies in, or contamination of, food prepared or manufactured outside the Borough dealt with during the year showed a decrease from the previous year. Strong warnings were issued to the Firms concerned.

Details of these cases are as follows:—

- Loaf of bread contaminated by grease.
- Drawing pin in bottle of milk.
- Portion of finger nail in loaf of bread.
- Foil cap in bottle of orange drink.
- Razor blade wrapper in bottle of milk.

This rather strange assortment of articles should not, of course, be contained in food and indeed it is difficult to understand how, say a drawing pin and a razor blade wrapper find their way into bottles of milk.

Carelessness on someone's part is indicated and not always can the food manufacturer be blamed. There is far too much wanton misuse of food containers in particular which is quite indefensible.

In all the 5 cases quoted strong warnings were given to the offenders.

The public could help by reporting such cases to the Department and in the case of bottles of liquid foods in the unopened condition in which received if at all possible.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

No serious problems arose under this heading and the work carried out under the above Acts is summarised in the following Table:—

—Inspections made for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	10	—	—	—
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	220	27	10	—
iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	6	—	—	—
Total	236	27	10	—

—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	14	13	—	12	—
Total	15	14	—	13	—

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-54.

The number of slaughtermen's licences issued during the year was 11.

Offensive Trades.

Two of the main offensive trade factories in the Borough, both long-established businesses, closed down during the year. One was demolished and the other, which had been the source of intermittent nuisance for many years and which urgently required new plant, was in course of demolition at the end of the year.

Two offensive trade premises only remain, one processing blood and animal wastes by dry rendering, and the other a rag sorting factory. The former was, on the whole, well conducted during the year and sporadic complaints were due to failure of the condensing equipment and mechanical fracture of uptakes on melters. These defects were speedily put right.

Knackers' Yards.

The sole knackers yard in the Borough closed during the year and was in process of being demolished at the end of the year.

Air Pollution.

The Table below shows the main improvements effected in industrial air pollution during the year, as a result of action by the Department.

Nuisance and/or Source of Air Pollution	Improvement effected and/or action taken
1. Emissions of dust from asphalt manufacturing plant.	New cyclone and wet type arrestor installed.
2. Grit nuisance from iron rolling mills fired by pulverised fuel.	All furnaces converted to oil firing.
3. Smoke nuisances from hand-fired reheating furnaces in drop forgings.	3 new furnaces installed with mechanical stokers and undertakings secured to replace all other furnaces.
4. Offensive smells from offensive trade premises.	New condenser effluent pipes fitted and water supply to condensers increased.
5. Grit nuisance from mechanically fired forced circulation boilers (5).	Mechanical grit arrestors fitted to all 5 boilers.
6. Smoke nuisance from hand-fired boiler plant at food factory.	New vertical boiler installed with underfeed mechanical stoker.
7. Nuisance from burning out mains of raw gas producers serving annealing furnaces.	Undertaking given to convert furnaces to town gas firing.
8. Nuisance from fumes from de-rusting and de-greasing tanks in tube works.	Extractors increased in height and modified.

Nuisance and/or Source of Air Pollution	Improvement effected and/or action taken
9. Serious emissions of offensive odours from chemical works.	Plant breakdowns remedied and modifications carried out.
10. Smoke nuisance from hand-fired annealing furnaces.	Undertaking secured to convert to firing by town gas.
11. Emissions of fumes and dust from non-ferrous metals refining factory.	Orders placed to provide comprehensive dust & fume arrestment plant.
12. Emission of sulphur dioxide gas from sulphuric acid plant.	Maintenance of plant carried out and nuisance abated.

Extensive plant to extract and collect phosphorus fume from one of the large chemical works in the district had not been installed by the end of the year though the Firm stated that component parts were being manufactured. Meanwhile severe nuisance continues intermittently which the residents of Langley have borne with great patience over many years. At last there is hope that that patience will not be taxed much further.

Although certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, including those relating to the establishment of Smoke Control Areas, came into force on the 31st December, 1956, the coming into operation of the main provisions affecting industry was keenly awaited. Several applications were received under the Act for approval of furnaces and chimney heights which were dealt with by the Department, in addition to mere notifications of new installations. Duties in connection with air pollution are becoming more and more onerous and there is little doubt that increasing demands will be made on the technical resources of the Department in the approval of new plants as time proceeds, and it may well happen that, bearing in mind the highly complex nature of many processes in this Borough, further advice from specialists will be required concerning special processes.

At the end of the year the Council had not considered the question of establishment of an initial smoke control area but the matter was to be considered in 1958. It is to be hoped that areas will be declared even though for many people there will be a reluctance to depart from the use of traditional fuels. If the Clean Air Act is to be implemented, increasing expenditure on the adaptation of fireplaces will be necessary but this should not be allowed to be a barrier to what will be a great public health and social improvement. Advance in public health standards has rarely been achieved without cost of some kind or another and the cost in creating smoke control areas amongst existing localities will be amply repaid by the decrease in dirt and grime and the improvement in the well-being and health of the 55,000 or so people crowded into the 3,300 acres of this Borough.

The Council is to be congratulated on the speed with which it made a Byelaw under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act, 1956 which requires that new buildings planned and erected after the 1st November, 1957 must be provided only with means of heating or cooking as will burn smokeless fuels such as gas, electricity, coke, anthracite, etc., etc.

The way is, therefore, clear from now on to declare any new estate for instance, to be a smoke control area at the outset, without any additional expense whatever being incurred.

I write this section of my report during the annual industrial holidays of the area and a foretaste of what could be, can be obtained by looking over Oldbury from the hilly north-west boundary of the Borough. The clarity and distance one can see is indeed remarkable.

Canal Boats.

22 canal boats remained on the register during the year and no new registrations were made. No new problems arose from the administration of the Public Health Act and Canal Boat Regulations.

Noise.

No complaints of major noise nuisance were recorded during the year.

Verminous Premises.

79 houses (including 43 Council houses) were disinfested during the year. Proprietary insecticides were again used based on the chlorinated hydrocarbons with generally satisfactory results. Clover mites made their appearance on housing estates during the year and, whilst they are of no public health significance, were the cause of many complaints. These mites are a relatively new problem to most Local Authorities and one might speculate whether these insects which may have been controlled previously by other species of insect are now appearing in large numbers due to the extermination of the latter by modern insecticides.

A disturbing feature of this report is the apparent increase in the cases of bed bug infestation which previously had been declining since the war. Again there is speculation to what extent the bed bug is becoming resistant to D.D.T., B.H.C., etc.

Rodent Control.

The work of rodent control continued to follow its familiar pattern and the work, mainly of a routine nature, needs no further comment.

Better means of mechanical transport were provided for the Rodent Operative which has made his work a little more congenial, and at the same time enabled him to more fully cover the district.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Column No.	Type of Property				
	Local Author- ity	Non-Agricultural Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	All other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3)	Agri- cul- tural
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	48	15,426	1,458	16,932	3
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	21	149	46	216	1
(b) Survey under the Act ...	8	8	11	27	—
(c) Otherwise	19	820	241	1,080	2
3. Total inspections carried out— (including re-inspections) ...	119	2,394	909	3,422	3
4. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats					
Major	3	2	4	9	—
Minor	12	131	35	178	1
(b) Mice					
Major	3	9	7	19	—
Minor	13	34	12	59	—
5. Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ...	31	176	58	265	1
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	42	131	86	259	1
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	—	—	3	3	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	1	2	2	5	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of "Block" Control schemes carried out	—	3	—	—	—

Public Swimming Baths.

Routine sampling of water at the Council's Vicarage Road Swimming Baths was again carried out during the year.

10 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis of which the initial 2 were bacteriologically unsatisfactory. Despite intensive investigation by the Baths Superintendent the cause of these 2 unsatisfactory samples was not definitely ascertained but was thought to be due to inadequate cleansing and sterilisation of the plant at the beginning of the swimming season.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

The number of licences issued under the above Act during the year was 5.

Public Cleansing and Salvage.

Note: This section of the report is for the financial year 1957-8, ending 31st March, 1958, and any reference to year should be read accordingly.

Collection and Disposal of House and Trade Refuse.

Collection.

Collections during the year have been consistently good and the only time when a weekly collection was not maintained was following a public holiday or the workmens' holidays during the summer. Even when the men were taking their holidays collections were very rarely more than one day in arrears and then for one week only.

Garden refuse continues to be placed in household dustbins in large quantities and this, particularly following the Easter holidays when such activities naturally gain a new impetus after the winter rest, gives rise to a surprising amount of extra refuse to be removed. Perversely this public holiday is the only one (except Christmas) when the men have two days off duty.

The Christmas holiday, of course, with a longer break, brings a problem even more accentuated with weight of refuse as the important factor, due particularly to increased ash and cinder, but, thanks to the incentive bonus scheme in operation in the Borough, it now causes very little trouble and collections quickly return to normal.

One peculiar complaint, if it can be called a complaint, received during the year was to the effect that the men had called at a house twice in one week, that is on a Monday morning and a Friday afternoon. My complainant asked me if I would see that this was corrected and in future would the men call only on the Monday morning.

Complaints of a very different nature were at one time very common for labour shortage and other reasons but this is the first time I have ever received a complaint of too frequent a collection and here I include pre-war days.

The number of dustbins being emptied at the end of the year was 16,919, which includes a number of factory and other business premises, equivalent to 626 bins per man per week of all those engaged on collection.

14,645 tons of refuse (including salvage) were collected in the year or 710 tons more than in 1956/7 which itself showed an increase of 500 tons more than the preceding year. This was achieved with no increase in the number of men employed.

(a) *Labour.*

The generally satisfactory position referred to above is in itself a tribute to the men engaged on refuse collection who have, through fair weather and foul, stuck to their job admirably.

This work of emptying dustbins is at best a dirty and thankless task but in really bad weather is one that demands fitness and a resilient and cheerful personality.

It is seldom realised that the dustman, as he is perhaps more popularly known, must be something of a philosopher, prophet and thought-reader. In particular he is often faced with the following questions or situations:—

The occupants of a house are out at business all day or the housewife has only gone to a friend's a few doors away and thought it best to lock the side door or gate.

The parcel near the dustbin is not for collection or, alternatively, it has obviously been placed there for removal "the next time the bin-men call."

The door is a little tight and only needs a slight push or he should know it is bolted on the inside and can't possibly be opened. If he pushes unduly the Department may be faced with a repair bill and he may get a reproof from the Foreman; if he doesn't a complaint will be made and he will have to return a second time anyway.

The hearth-rug resting on the bin is there merely for airing and was never intended to be moved, or was put there for removal as it was obviously too bulky to put in the dustbin.

The dog is dangerous and will bite or is not dangerous and has never bitten anyone in his/her life.

The innocent looking paper and cardboard in a dustbin weighing heavier than any normal house refuse ever could, requiring two men even to move the bin, concealing a collection of broken paving slabs.

The blackened and charred interior of a dustbin that (indignantly) "has never been used as an incinerator or for burning garden refuse."

These and dozens of other incidents are his daily round. Small wonder he sometimes gives up the unequal struggle and leaves for a repetitive job inside a factory with "music while you

work," and all praise to the vast majority that carry on day by day solving these conundrums with commendable sang-froid.

Lest readers of this report think the above an exaggeration I need hardly add that I have listened to all the above as the substance of different complaints on more than one occasion. Invariably, however, when the other side of the question is explained the complainant appreciates the position and a recurrence is prevented with satisfaction on both sides.

Absenteeism and sickness in the year, amongst refuse collectors and drivers only, accounted for the loss of only 424 man/days (excluding holidays) as against 808 in 1956/7 and 1,203 in 1955/6, a truly remarkable drop in the short space of two years.

(b) *Trade Refuse.*

The number of business premises from which collection of refuse is made continues to increase as also does the number of firms and tradesmen using the Council's refuse tip for disposal of refuse using their own transport.

The income from this source is shown in the Table at the end of this section of the report and shows an increase of £90 over the year 1956/7.

Disposal.

Controlled tipping continues to be the sole method of disposal of refuse other than salvageable material referred to in the next heading of this section.

No trouble has arisen at the refuse tip during the year either from smells, insects or other causes.

Disposal costs again show a further saving at 1/3d. per ton (Credit) as against 1/1d. per ton (Credit) for 1956/7.

15,884 tons of refuse in all were disposed of or 1,023 tons more than in 1956/7.

The Council, in view of the expected life of the present tip at Taylor's Lane and the increasing shortage of tipping sites in the Borough, made a Compulsory Purchase Order on the Titford Brickworks site as long ago as January, 1958.

Confirmation of the Order is still awaited from the appropriate Ministry, and in the meantime the marlhole forming the subject of the Order is being used on a considerable scale as a private tip by the owner himself.

Salvage.

I am glad to report that a profit was again made on salvage for the year, expenditure being £4,185 and income £4,975, showing a surplus of £790.

There is, of course, another advantage in this salvage activity in that valuable tipping space is saved to a degree by the return of the articles to industry.

Public Cleansing Service.
Cost Statement for the year ended 31st March, 1957.

Item	Particulars I	Collec- tion 2	Disposal 3	Totals 4	Percentage of total gross expenditure 5
	REVENUE ACCOUNT	£	£	£	%
1.	GROSS EXPENDITURE:				
	(i) Labour	12,842	1,869	14,711	42
	(ii) Transport	10,230	1,098	11,328	33
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings	5,303	685	5,988	17
	(iv) Other items	2,764	—	2,764	8
	(v) Total gross expenditure ...	31,139	3,652	34,791	100
2.	GROSS INCOME	1,013	5,468	6,481	—
3.	NET COST	30,126	1,816 Cr.	28,310	—
4.	Capital expenditure met from revenue included above ...	—	—	—	—
	UNIT COSTS:	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5.	Gross cost per ton, labour only ...	17 6	2 4	19 10	
6.	Gross cost per ton, transport only	14 0	1 5	15 5	
7.	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	41 2	1 3 Cr.	39 11	
		£	£	£	
8.	Net cost per 1,000 population ...	550	33 Cr.	517	
9.	Net cost per 1,000 premises ...	1,862	112 Cr.	1,750	

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.

10.	Area (statute acres)—land and inland water	...	...	...	3,300 acres
11.	Population at 30th June, 1957	...	...	...	54,770 persons
12.	Total refuse collected	...	...	...	14,645 tons
13.	Weight per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	...	...	...	14.6 cwts.
14.	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	...	...	...	16 176 premises
15.	Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly	...	...	...	77% of total
16.	Average haul, single journey to final disposal point	...	...	...	2 miles
17.	Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total collection	...	...	...	Nil %
18.	Total refuse disposed	...	...	...	15,884 tons
19.	Methods of disposal: Controlled tipping	...	...	...	100%
20.	Salvage. Analysis of income and tonnage:				
			Income (Included in Item 2)		Tonnage Collected (Included in Item 12)
			£		Tons
	(a) Scrap Metal	...	1,104		132
	(b) Waste Paper	...	3,863		466
	(c) Other Salvage	...	8		3
	(d) Totals	...	4,975		601
21.	Trade Refuse:				
	(a) Income	...	780		
	(b) Collected and disposed of by Depart- ment	...			Included in Item 12 above
	(c) Disposed of only by Department	...			1,239

Provision of Dustbins (Rate Fund Scheme).

1,611 dustbins were provided to dwelling houses during the year to replace worn-out bins, a decrease of 199 on the previous year.

Expenditure on this service for the current year and the previous one is given below:—

	1956/7	1957/8
Number of unserviceable bins replaced	1,810	1,611
Cost of dustbins	£3,593	£2,821
Equivalent rate charge in £	1½d.	1.23d.

A welcome decrease in the expenditure on this scheme is apparent due partly to the drop in the number of bins requiring replacement and partly to a change of heart on the part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in April, 1957, by reducing the purchase tax on dustbins from 30 per cent. to 15 per cent. amounting to a saving of approximately 5s. od. per dustbin.

Staff.

Mr. J. Jeavons returned to duty as a Clerk in the Department on the 12th August, 1957, after two years service in H.M. Forces.

It is pleasing to report that for the first time since 1951 no member of the staff left the Department during the year.

There is, however, still one vacancy for an Inspector in the Department. This vacancy was advertised during the year but no satisfactory applications were received. With so many vacancies existing for Public Health Inspectors in the country, often in more salubrious areas, this is hardly surprising.

Two of the Pupil Inspector/Clerks in the Department continue to make satisfactory progress in their studies and, at the time of writing this report, are half-way through their training with two more years of their course to run.

Obituary.

It is with considerable regret that I record the death of the late Mr. Edgar Harrold, after a long and trying illness, on the 17th February, 1958.

Mr. Harrold retired from the position of Chief Sanitary Inspector to the Council in 1954 after 46 years' service with the Authority.

He was Chief Inspector for no less than 32 years, the longest period of service ever, to my knowledge, by a Head of a Department of this Council.

He was a tactful, hard-working Officer and enjoyed the confidence of the Council and members of the public alike.

He was held in particular esteem and affection by members of his own staff, many of whom have now moved away from Old-

bury but who will, I know, like those of us who remain here, remember him as he was in his more active years.

Conclusion.

I tender my sincere gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and my colleagues in other Departments for the help they have given me during the year.

I would also like once again to express my thanks to all members of my staff who have worked loyally and well throughout the year, both Inspectors, Clerks and manual workers, and in particular my Deputy, Mr. Keene.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. J. MASON,

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

Municipal Buildings,
Oldbury.

August, 1958.

